

## **Australian Council of Deans of Education media release**

### **Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers**

The ACDE today called for a substantial increase in teacher education resources, a new funding body for educational research, and improved Commonwealth/state relations to ensure that Australian teacher education is world class. In making its final submission to the House of Representatives Inquiry into Teacher Education, ACDE President Prof. Terry Lovat noted that teaching was the central profession of the knowledge economy:

‘We welcome the Inquiry and the chance to build on the diversity and innovation currently found across Education faculties nationwide. To be successful, however, the Inquiry must also examine the lack of resources in teacher education. Financial constraints, and a dearth of educational research, are currently impeding opportunities for innovation.’

The Council proposes 32 recommendations including:

- facilitating the greater involvement of state and territory governments in teacher education on a systematic, agreed basis, possibly tied to specific areas such as practicum funding;
- Removing the quarantining of Education from the variable HECS fees market;
- Introducing targeted Commonwealth scholarships to boost the diversity and quality of teacher education candidates;
- Improving access, progression and graduation rates of Indigenous teachers, and providing structured support for early career development for these graduates
- Conducting a national public campaign to promote teaching, and;
- Creating a dedicated Education research fund, similar to the Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council models.

Professor Lovat maintained that a holistic approach is required to teacher education. ‘Increased provision of professional learning is necessary to promote a culture of lifelong learning among teachers, and teacher educators; greater educational research is required, particularly into new pedagogies; salaries and conditions need to be competitive; and career paths need to be visible and attractive. Teacher education needs to be seen as an integral part of the teaching process, but not considered in isolation.’

The ACDE submission is available at [www.acde.edu.au](http://www.acde.edu.au)

The Deans are available for comment.

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