

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015**

## **TEACHER EDUCATION RELEVANT TO POPULATION GROWTH**

The *Teacher Workforce in Australia Report* released today underscores the critical role of quality teaching as the demand for teachers increases with the current cohort of primary students and the expected increase in secondary school students from 2018.

The Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) says the report highlights the strong demand for teachers – expected to continue in most states for at least the next 10 years – and the accompanying workforce challenges.

‘In an increasingly competitive world the quality of Australian education will be central to our future; as teacher educators we have an important role in helping to meet these challenges,’ ACDE Board Member, Professor John Williamson, says.

The ACDE is working with the Federal Government and other agencies to implement the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group ([TEMAG](#)) Report recommendations to strengthen Australian teacher education, starting with discussions at the Deans’ Forum in Canberra this Friday.

‘Members of ACDE have always valued the collaborate nature of our work with the Federal Government and this relationship will now be even more significant,’ ACDE Deputy President, Professor Helen Huntly, says. ‘Both organisations share the common goal of ensuring that we prepare and support excellent Australian teachers,’ she says.

However, ACDE notes there are a number of challenges outlined in the *Teacher Workforce in Australia Report* that need to be addressed in conjunction with TEMAG considerations.

These include:

- The shortage of languages, mathematics, physics, chemistry, geography and IT secondary teachers that will become more acute from 2018 unless supply of those teachers increases. The shortage is already causing high levels of out-of-subject teaching and the problem will be exacerbated by the impending retirement of the older males who dominate many of these subjects.
- The increasing gender imbalance in teaching. Already 80 per cent of primary teachers are female and, in the 30 years from 1981, the proportion of male secondary teachers has dropped from 55% to 42%.
- The fact that there is little data to ‘enable a clear examination of the pressure points’ for educating our growing population – something that needs to be rectified so better evidence can inform future workforce planning.

Further information: **ACDE Media and Strategy, Leslie Falkiner-Rose**

Email [media@acde.edu.au](mailto:media@acde.edu.au)

Mobile 0418 995240