

**MEDIA RELEASE FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015**

## **DROP IN TEACHER EDUCATION APPLICATIONS LIKELY TO RESULT IN FUTURE TEACHER SHORTAGE**

The Australian Council of Deans of Education is deeply concerned by the 8.9% drop in the number of Year 12 students choosing teacher education as their first preference.

ACDE Deputy President, Professor Helen Huntly, says the drop reflects the continued move away from teaching as the profession of choice for school-leavers. It impacts further what many believe will be a national shortage of teachers in the near future.

Professor Huntly says the drop in applications is at odds with the number of primary and secondary teachers required to meet the increases in future student numbers as outlined in *The Teacher Workforce in Australia Report* released in March.

'Nationally, the teaching profession is under constant scrutiny with calls to enhance the quality of teaching in Australian schools. ACDE believes the implementation of the TEMAG Report recommendations will improve public perceptions of teacher education courses and highlight the importance of quality teaching to Australia's future,' Professor Huntly says.

The ACDE, which represents all universities offering teacher education, notes that Teacher Education courses had the highest percentage of Year 12 students accepted with low ATAR scores, however, this needs to be seen in perspective:

- In reality, only the minority of teacher education student offers is based on ATAR scores. Three-quarters of teaching students are accepted by means other than ATAR, such as relevant past employment, mature age entry or professional qualifications and experience.
- Only 3% of teacher education students - fewer than 900 students nationally each year -- are accepted with scores below 50. Many of these have been given special consideration due to unexpected illness and other issues that impact their results.
- There are also special entry provisions made to ensure that we develop a diverse, more inclusive teaching workforce. Where necessary, those pre-service teachers are given additional support to ensure they graduate as high-quality teachers.

ACDE supports the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group's *Action Now, Classroom Ready Teachers* Report that recommended 'Higher education providers select the best candidates into teaching using sophisticated approaches that ensure initial teacher education students possess the required academic skills and personal characteristics to become a successful teacher'.

### **For further information:**

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