

Media Release 19 October 2014

---

## **REPORTS POINT TO NEED FOR NATIONAL COORDINATED EFFORT IN TEACHER EDUCATION**

Three education reports released by the Federal Government today highlight the need for a co-ordinated, evidence-based, national approach to teacher education that will lead to improved student learning.

The **Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE)** welcomes the [release](#) of *The National Teaching Workforce Dataset Project Report 2014*, *The Staff in Australia's Schools 2013 Report* and *The Longitudinal Teacher Education and Workforce Study*, by Minister Pyne.

ACDE President, Professor Tania Aspland, says: "The reports highlight many positive elements of teacher education and the teaching workforce but they also bring critical issues to the fore."

These include:

- The need for better early career support for teachers in diverse and challenging classroom environments
- The disconnect between how early career teachers and school principals perceive the availability of school-based professional induction programs in the crucial first two years of teaching
- The relatively large proportion of early career teachers working in remote schools
- The need for better early career training for teachers to improve how they work with parents and communities
- The aging demographic of the teaching workforce
- The disproportionately low numbers of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders teachers and leaders – one third of the percentage of the national population
- The disproportionately low numbers of teachers and leaders who speak a language other than English (LOTE) at home – less than half of the percentage of the national population.
- The lack of permanent positions for early career teachers

The [ACDE submission](#) to the current inquiry of the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG) proposes a stronger focus on student outcomes, reform of regulatory and quality assurance processes, the strengthening of school and university partnerships, greater incentives and support for teachers in their early teaching years, lifelong professional development and the means to improve the breadth, depth and co-ordination of essential research to inform future policies.

The ACDE welcomes the TEMAG review and its role in addressing some of these issues.

The [ACDE](#) is the peak association of the Deans of faculties and Heads of Schools of Education in universities and other higher education institutions in Australia.

**Further Information: Helen Kenneally, ACDE Executive Officer. Mobile 0431 283 969**

**Australian Council of Deans of Education**

**A** Universities Australia Building | 1 Geils Court | Deakin, ACT 2600

**T** +61 6285 8238 | **M** 0431 283 969 **E** office@acde.edu.au | **W** [www.acde.edu.au](http://www.acde.edu.au)