

Education Deans Concerned about Initial Teacher Education Review Focus

ACDE looks forward to working with the Review Panel undertaking on the review as announced by Minister Tudge today. We acknowledge the experience base of the expert panel, especially the lead, Ms Lisa Paul AO a former long serving Secretary of the Department of Education.

There is a great deal for the review to appreciate from the extensive ongoing reform measures in teacher education that have been the product of the 2015 TEMAG review. 'The review will help us to understand what has been achieved, what is still left to do and what we need by way of further decisions and resourcing' said the President of ACDE, Professor Michele Simons.

The review has an extremely tight timeframe. 'I am concerned about the review's potential to create perceptions of the existing teacher workforce that will hinder our efforts to ensure that all teachers – regardless of the stage of their career – are recognised, offered support and provided with the resources they need to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. One of the key learnings from COVID last year was the way teachers and school leaders across the national stepped up and kept schooling going for our children and young people. We need to celebrate and learn from this experience and the review is well timed to allow us to do this, Professor Simons notes.

ACDE is also concerned that the review might be too focussed on Initial Teacher Education and not necessarily on a range of important matters – such as the professional learning needs of all teachers – regardless of their stage of their career. We are now only just beginning to see the changes that have been implemented from TEMAG. 'We are now only just seeing the graduates from the first programs developed from these reforms. We need to look to find the opportunities where we can build on these successes and where we need to do more. Most importantly we need to look to ways in which we can build consensus and a commitment to action across jurisdictional boundaries and tackle the many other matters such as supporting quality ongoing learning and development for teachers at all stages of their career, which are essential to building a quality teaching workforce'.

For further information:

ACDE President, Professor Michele Simons, phone: 0403 135 357

ACDE Deputy President, Professor Donna Pendergast, phone: 0466 130 479