

ACDE Strategic Plan 2021-2023

OPERATING CONTEXT

Leading Learning for the Teaching Profession

The Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) is the peak body representing all Australian universities and several private Higher Education Providers that offer initial teacher education degrees, and/or teacher professional learning and research in the field of education. It was founded in 1991 as an independent, not-for-profit body to ensure that Australia produces teacher graduates of the highest quality who work in a wide range of education-related workplaces and occupations. ACDE and its associated activities are self-funded from institutional membership fees and commissioned work. Our current membership comprises over 40 institutions responsible for graduating approximately 6,950¹ teachers annually and offering further education for 2,400¹ teachers and education leaders. These educators are responsible for the learning and care of nearly 4 million students in close to 9500 government, Catholic and independent schools and 1,268,222² children accessing early childhood or before or after school-care services in 14,226² centres. ACDE fosters and maintains professional engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including National and State & Territory Governments and Agencies (e.g., AITSL), and Regulatory Authorities.

OUR GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

ACDE exists to:

- (a) Lead the development of the discipline of education through political advocacy, stakeholder collaboration, policy critique, and research,
- (b) Advocate for the future of the teaching profession and support the Deans of Education where appropriate, and
- (c) Contribute to debates on the educational needs of pre-service teachers, teachers, teacher educators, early childhood educators and higher education academics in the field of education.

ACDE will fulfill its strategic intent by creating and leading:

Goal 1: Debates and research to raise issues that impact the quality of education for Australia's teachers and educators, and

Goal 2: To advocate and prioritise quality and diversity in the Australian teaching workforce through excellence in teacher education.

In aspiring to achieve strategic priorities, ACDE acknowledges the expertise of researchers and educators of ACDE members in leading evidence-based approaches to the provision of high quality and relevant professional learning for the teaching profession.

ACDE's purposes and goals are underpinned by five principles related to Expertise, Excellence, Evidence, Engagement and Equity. We are committed to these values and strategic priorities and they underpin the work that ACDE undertakes through engagement with stakeholders and the wider education profession.

1. National Initial Teacher Education Pipeline, Australian Teacher Workforce data Report 1. Published November 2020, Education Services Australia
2. 2016 Early Childhood Education and Care National Workforce Report. Published 11 September 2017, Department of Education and Training.
3. Note some school aged children might also access before or after school services.

Table 1. ACDE’s Operational Priority Areas for Members, Teachers and the Broader Community

| Principles | Value for Members | Value for Teachers and the Broader Community |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Expertise | ACDE provides members with opportunities to develop and share expertise related to the teaching profession, and educational practice and policy. | <p>ACDE provides a platform for teacher educators through advocacy.</p> <p>Acts as a conduit between government and Deans of Education across states and jurisdictions regarding important matters in the higher education sector.</p> <p>Advocates for continuous improvement in teacher education and the education systems.</p> <p>Partners with national organisations to question education policy and practice.</p> <p>Establishes channels of communication with key government authorities and higher education stakeholders.</p> <p>Contributes to the development of education policy with a view to establishing national position statements.</p> <p>Undertaking consultation with Commonwealth ministries, associated departments and boards, and national bodies representing state and federal ministers and/or directors general of education.</p> |
| Excellence | ACDE recognises and shares excellence in teacher education programs, policy formation and advocacy, and educational research. | <p>ACDE leads and responds to issues in teacher education and anticipates future concerns (e.g., workforce needs and the offering of credentials).</p> <p>Identifying and addressing national issues in education, especially teacher education.</p> |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Engagement | <p>ACDE provides members with regular opportunities to connect and collaborate.</p> <p>Provides members with a forum to debate, develop strategies and share professional learning.</p> <p>Providing a consultative forum for all Deans of Education across Australia.</p> | <p>ACDE engages with a breadth of stakeholders promoting teaching and education as a career and seeks input regarding quality in the teaching profession.</p> <p>Encourages national conversations that enhance the public standing of the education profession and promote the importance of evidence-based practices and policies in teacher education.</p> <p>Promoting education as a beneficial area of study for many people including teachers.</p> <p>Improving the public perception of teacher education and the teaching profession.</p> <p>Collaborating with other organisations with interests in education with a view to providing a voice on national matters associated with educational issues.</p> |
| Evidence | <p>ACDE provides access to evidence-based and research informed approaches to quality teacher education.</p> | <p>ACDE sources evidence to guide and inform educational policy and decision-making.</p> <p>Supports the conduct of research in education.</p> <p>Undertakes some internationally recognised research and scholarship to support policy development to improve the quality of teaching in Australia.</p> |
| Equity | <p>ACDE shares information about how teacher education programs can support the success of a diversity of candidates.</p> | <p>ACDE anticipates and is culturally responsive to equity issues in teacher education.</p> |