

Implications for currently employed teachers

The Act provides a 12 month period during which persons teaching before the commencement of the Act on 1 January 2002 may apply for either registration or a limited authority to teach, and continue to teach within those 12 months.

There are about 10,000 teachers to whom this applies and more detailed information and advice will be widely circulated in the near future.

Implications for teachers seeking employment in 2002

Those persons seeking a career as teachers in 2002 must secure registration, provisional registration or a limited authority to teach before commencing employment.

People in this situation are strongly encouraged to get their application forms in before the end of 2001. The application forms will be widely distributed and will be available from October 2001 onwards and from the TRB website.

Communication

The Board is committed to ensuring high quality, effective communications with all the stakeholders in teacher registration, especially teachers. If you wish to contact the Board, see the next column.

Contact details

Location:

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Kirksway House
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The **Chairperson**, Gaye Behrens, and the **Manager**, Penny Cocker, can be contacted in writing via the postal address or via e-mail at:

TRB.chair@education.tas.gov.au

or

TRB.manager@education.tas.gov.au

The **Teachers Registration Board Website** is:

<http://trb.tas.gov.au>

It is intended to use the website as a key communication tool and teachers are encouraged to visit the website regularly from the end of September 2001.

Introducing the Tasmanian Teachers Registration Board



September 2001

The Education Minister Paula Wriedt's *Learning Together* document provides a vision for education, training and information into the 21st century. One of its goals is to have a valued and supported education workforce that reflects the importance of teaching as a profession and is held in high esteem by the community.

As part of achieving this goal, the *Teachers Registration Act 2000* was passed by Parliament and the Teachers Registration Board appointed in March 2001.

The Board's members are:

- Gaye Behrens (Chair)
- Trudy Pearce (practising teacher, Ulverstone Primary School)
- Tim Doe (Department of Education)
- Tim Waley (Association of Independent Schools)
- Jeff Hall (Catholic Education Office)
- Rose Parker (Australian Education Union nominee)
- Kris Reeve (Tasmanian Catholic Employees Association nominee)
- Barry McFarlane (Tasmanian Independent School Teachers Association nominee)
- John Williamson (University of Tasmania)
- Carla Rainbird (Tasmanian Council of State School Parents and Friends Associations).

The Act sets the General Functions of the Board as:

- (a) to register persons under this Act;
- (b) to keep registration under review and make reports and recommendations to the Minister on the matter;
- (c) to undertake relevant reviews and research projects;
- (d) to promote the teaching profession;
- (e) to develop and improve professional teaching standards;
- (f) to develop and maintain a code of professional ethics for the teaching profession;
- (g) to make recommendations to the Minister with respect to –
 - (i) special projects; and
 - (ii) the funding required to undertake those projects; and
 - (iii) the appointment of persons necessary to undertake or assist in the undertaking of those projects.

Based in Hobart, the Board will be totally self-funded, relying on registration fees and possible sales of materials. The State Government, through the Department of Education, is providing initial funding, as well as corporate services and IT infrastructure support.

Registration

The Act provides that only persons who are registered, provisionally registered or who have a limited authority to teach may be employed or engaged to teach in State schools or registered non-government schools.

Initial, high priority tasks for the Board have been establishing appropriate policies, criteria and procedures for registration, provisional registration and the limited authority to teach.

The Board will assess an applicant's teacher education studies in conjunction with the length, location and timing of her/his teaching experiences to determine the category of registration to be granted, subject to a satisfactory character check.

The Act provides for the granting of an limited authority to teach to a person when a school is unable to find a suitable registered teacher.

It should be clearly understood that it is not the Board's intention to place currently employed teachers at a disadvantage through the application for registration process. Each application will be considered on its merits in accordance with the Act.