

MEDIA RELEASE

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A Boost For Teacher Quality: National Recognition For Tasmanian Teachers

Tasmanian classroom teachers now have the opportunity to be recognised for their expertise through national Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers.

Bringing together the Department of Education, Independent, Catholic and Christian schools, the Certification aims to recognise and promote quality teaching. In a national first, Tasmanian teachers have the added benefit of completing a Graduate Certificate in Education through the University of Tasmania as part of the process.

Minister Courtney today met with some of the inaugural participants and assessors to launch the Tasmanian Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers.

“This certification is about recognising our high-quality teachers and providing them with pathways to continue to excel in the classroom where they are achieving great impact,” Minister Courtney said.

“To see this level of collaboration across sectors, including the University of Tasmania, demonstrates a shared desire and commitment to advancing the teaching profession.

“In this first cohort of Assessors and Participants, there is representation from all education sectors, from all areas of Tasmania, and across the breadth of educational specialisation and school levels.

“This is a fantastic achievement for education in Tasmania and a great indicator of the calibre of teachers we have here, whose collective focus is to improve the learning outcomes of students,” she said.

Chair of the Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers Pilot Steering Committee Stephen Mannering said that demand for the Pilot had been high.

“Of Tasmania’s 12,000 teachers, more than 600 attended the first information session about Certification for only 30 available places. That gave the Steering Committee a lot of confidence that what we’re implementing is of high appeal to teachers.

“On top of that, Tasmanian teachers are completing their Graduate Certificate and we’re very fortunate that the University of Tasmania waived its fees for that course.

“Certification is a nationally consistent, rigorous process, managed by the local certifying authority that can take anywhere between 12 months and three years - so it’s no small undertaking - but definitely one worth pursuing,” he said.

The Registrar of the Teachers Registration Board (the local Certifying Authority), Ann Moxham, said “all involved were thrilled that competition for the first intake of senior staff to be trained as nationally accredited Assessors was very strong.”

“Assessors are vital to certification, lifting standards in schools and to ensuring there are advocates for certification in every sector”.

“The evidence in jurisdictions that have successfully implemented Certification is that the impact of Highly Accomplished or Lead Teachers is felt not just in the classroom, but across the school and into the community. We’re looking forward to bringing that to fruition in Tasmania,” she said.