

## PORTFOLIO REPORT – STATE COUNCIL

### Teacher Training Report

#### **Kym Ross – Portfolio Holder, March 2020**

Prior to graduation, all initial teacher education students are expected to sit the Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education Students (the test) to demonstrate that they have been assessed as being in the top 30 per cent of the adult population for personal literacy and numeracy. The test is an online assessment that examines aspects of an individual’s personal literacy and numeracy skills.

Between 2016 and 2018, over 59,000 individuals have attempted one or both components of the test. The table below shows the number of new candidates attempting each component of the test one or more times and the percentage meeting the standard each year.

	Literacy		Numeracy	
	Total test candidates	% met the standard	Total test candidates	% met the standard
2016 first time candidates	13,083	95.2%	13,084	94.2%
2017 first time candidates	23,387	92.0%	23,466	92.3%
2018 first time candidates	22,066	90.4%	22,011	90.0%

2019 results are expected to be available around April 2020.

#### **Federal Media Announcements**

##### ***6<sup>th</sup> December 2019*** - Teacher reforms delivering improvements

The Morrison Government’s reforms to teacher training are delivering improvements.

According to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) Initial Teacher Education: Data Report 2019 shows:

- 87 per cent of employers were satisfied with the performance of teaching graduates.
- 86 per cent of undergraduates and 81 per cent of postgraduates reported their qualification prepared them for employment (for non-ITE programs – undergraduate: 69 per cent; postgraduate: 75 per cent).
- 64 per cent of ITE entrants had an ATAR higher than 70, up from 58, of entrants who entered ITE using an ATAR.
- Over the past decade, there has been an increase in the number of ITE students who commenced a master’s qualification (eight per cent in 2008 to 21 per cent in 2017).

Teachers can make the biggest difference to a student's education and that is why the Government introduced reforms to improve teacher education. Mr. Tehan said, "We are starting to see the benefits of those reforms with more confident teachers entering the classroom and nearly nine out of ten employers expressing satisfaction with their teacher's performance."

As part of the government's focus on literacy, they are working with providers to ensure that trainee teachers learn how to teach phonics to their students; and have asked that states and territories deliver learning progressions to empower teachers to better deliver highly-personalised, informed teaching plans.

### **16<sup>th</sup> October 2019** – Supporting more teachers in very remote communities

Students attending very remote schools will benefit from teachers staying at their schools longer.

The Morrison Government introduced legislation to waive the HELP debt for teachers who worked at very remote schools.

The program has also been extended to cover early childhood teachers.

Minister for Education Dan Tehan said the Morrison Government would wipe up to five years' worth of HELP debt from students who spend at least four years working in very remote education settings.

The program will also assist more than 3,500 educators in very remote settings annually by removing indexation on their HELP debt.

To be eligible teachers must work in an eligible location for at least four years, commencing on or after the start of the 2019 school year, with an equivalent pro-rata rate for part-time teachers. Eligible areas are those defined as very remote by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard.

Up to a maximum of five years tuition fees could be waived for initial teacher education which was deferred as a HELP loan. This includes a HECS-HELP loan, a FEE-HELP loan, or a combination of both.

### **31<sup>st</sup> May 2019** - Literacy and numeracy tests ensuring high-quality teachers

The literacy and numeracy test for teaching students is ensuring that graduate teachers have the necessary skills required in the classroom. Teaching students are required to pass a literacy and numeracy test with a score that puts them in the top 30 per cent of the Australian adult population.

In 2018, 90.4 per cent of teaching students met the literacy standard and 90 per cent of students met the numeracy benchmark.

Minister for Education Dan Tehan said the test was working as intended by ensuring that graduate teachers had a high level of the essential skills needed to teach children.

"We have also introduced a high-quality teaching performance assessment that students must pass prior to graduation that demonstrates graduate teachers are classroom ready."

"Higher education providers need to take responsibility for the teaching of students that do not meet the standards by ensuring they receive additional support to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. The onus is on universities to ensure the graduates they are producing meet the high standards expected by parents and the standards that our children deserve."