

The Board congratulates you on becoming a registered teacher in Tasmania.

## **What does it mean to be a registered teacher in Tasmania?**

Like other professions occupying positions of trust and responsibility, teachers are required, by law, to be registered in order to practice their profession.

Teacher registration responds to community expectations in relation to individuals who are employed to teach Tasmanian students. Registration sets benchmarks for the teaching profession in terms of qualifications, teaching competence, skill and knowledge, character and fitness to teach.

Registration promotes community confidence in the work of Tasmanian teachers and validates registered teachers as highly skilled professionals. It is recommended that you read the document in your TRB Online account that outlines your rights and responsibilities as a Tasmanian teacher.

## **Code of Professional Ethics and Professional Teaching Standards**

As a registered teacher you have been judged to be a person with appropriate qualifications, who is competent, of good character and fit to be a teacher. You are expected to satisfy a standard of behaviour that is generally expected of a teacher.

The Board has developed a [Code of Professional Ethics for the Teaching Profession in Tasmania](#). This describes the ethical commitments, practices and aspirations that underpin the teaching profession in Tasmania. As a registered teacher the Board expects you to adhere to the Principles contained in the Code.

The [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#) define the work of teachers and make explicit the elements of high-quality, effective teaching in 21st-century schools. The Standards provide a framework that makes clear the knowledge, practice and professional engagement required across teachers' careers.

## **The role of the Board in acting in the best interest of students**

The Board has a legislated role to act in the best interest of students. It must also ensure that all registrants are of good character, are competent and are fit to teach. Any person can make a complaint to the Board in relation to the professional conduct of a registrant. The Board can also receive notifications about the conduct of registrants from employers, other registration bodies and Tasmania Police. In these circumstances the Board can undertake an inquiry into any matter of concern in relation to a registrant.

Outcomes from an inquiry can include:

- Issuing a 'caution'.
- Imposing a condition on a person's registration.
- Suspending a person's registration
- Cancelling a person's registration.

The Board can also suspend a person's registration before conducting an inquiry if it believes that the person poses a risk of harm to a student.

## **Your obligations as a registered teacher**

As a registered teacher you have the following legal obligations:

- To ensure that you have current registration before you are employed or engaged to teach.
- To advise the Board if you are charged with a prescribed or other offence\*\*.
- To advise the Board if you are convicted of a prescribed or other offence\*\*.
- To notify the Board of any change in your name, address or qualifications.
- To assist the Board in holding an inquiry, if required to do so. When giving information to the Board, you must not make a statement knowing it to be false or misleading, or omit any matter knowing that without that matter the information is misleading.

\*\* A prescribed offence is an offence, committed in Tasmania or elsewhere, where a sentence of imprisonment may be imposed (whether or not it is imposed). (E.g., Driving under the influence, Common Assault, Stealing, Drug offences).

## Full Registration

The Board grants full registration on the basis of the following criteria:

- appropriate teaching qualifications and experience;
- an assessment of teaching competence;
- an assessment that the person is of good character and fit to teach;
- an assessment that the person can communicate in the English language at a professional level;
- evidence that the person participates in professional learning to build knowledge, skill and competence.

A grant of full registration means that the person has demonstrated his/her teaching competence against the Proficient stage of the Australian Professional Teaching Standards.

## Provisional Registration

The Board grants provisional registration on the basis of the following criteria:

- appropriate teaching qualifications or the ability to gain these qualifications;
- an assessment that the person is of good character and fit to teach;
- an assessment that the person can communicate in the English language at a professional level.

A grant of provisional registration means that the person is not able to meet the requirements for full registration. This is usually as a result of lack of relevant or recent teaching experience and/or the teacher has not yet had their teaching practice assessed as meeting the Proficient stage of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

A person with provisional registration will have conditions on their registration. These conditions will reflect the reason why the person has been granted provisional registration. In order to move to full registration, the person will be expected to meet the conditions that have been placed on their provisional registration.

Full and Provisional Registration together comprise one category of registration and recognise the qualifications, teaching experience and competencies of teachers who are trained to teach in the school sector which delivers educational services to students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

## **Specialist Vocational Education and Training (VET) Registration**

The *Teachers Registration Act 2000* was amended on 1 July 2013. The Act now provides for registration of all teachers employed in TasTAFE and establishes Specialist Vocational Education and Training (VET) Registration as a new type of registration.

Specialist Vocational Education and Training Registration recognises the qualifications, teaching experience and competencies of teachers who are engaged or employed in the VET sector. Registrants holding Specialist Vocational Education and Training Registration are qualified to deliver VET courses in Tasmanian schools and TasTAFE, including courses that are foundation courses or prerequisites to vocational pathways.

## **Dual Registration**

The Act also allows the Board to grant Specialist VET registration AND general school-sector registration to teachers who have qualifications suitable for both education sectors – vocational and school. Therefore a number of Tasmanian teachers will hold two categories of registration in recognition of their broad educational qualifications - Specialist VET registration and either full or provisional registration for the school sector.

## **Registration with Conditions**

All people with provisional registration have conditional registration. Normally the condition/s will reflect the reason why a person has been granted provisional registration.

Some of the common conditions that are placed on provisional registration are:

- Meet Board requirements for full registration and complete the change of registration category process within the current cycle of registration.
- Gain an approved teaching qualification within the cycle of registration.

Some people have other conditions placed on their registration. These are usually specific to the registrant and may be as a result of an issue that has come before the Board. If you have conditional registration, you should ensure that you are familiar with the conditions that have been placed on your registration.

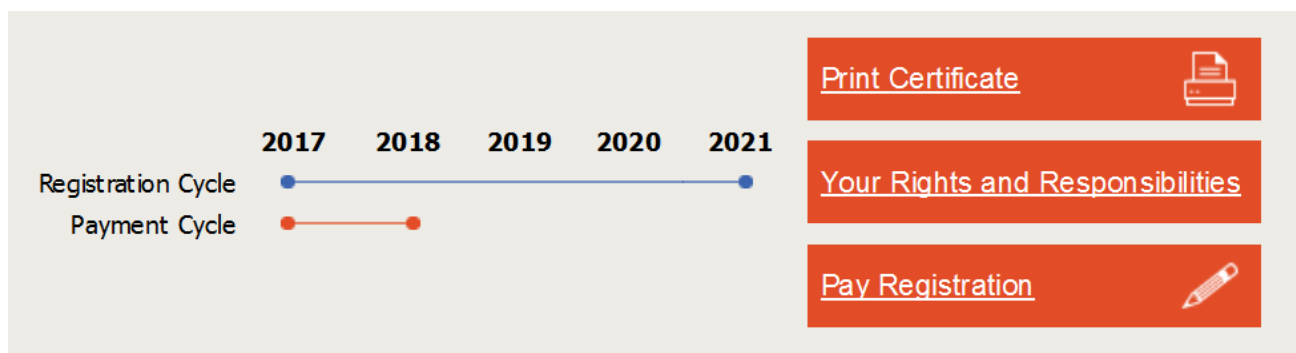
## Paying to continue your registration

All registrants are granted a cycle of registration. This cycle is normally 5 years in length. A cycle of registration will end on 31 December in the final or 5th year. Each year in the registration cycle must be paid for. Your registration will only be valid if the registration or annual fee has been paid and is up to date.

Your registration has a financial expiry date. This is the date after which your registration will lapse unless you pay for another year before your registration expires.

You can pay to maintain your registration (pay for future years in your current cycle of registration) at any time in your TRB Online account by clicking on “Pay Registration”.

Note: clicking on “Pay Registration” will generate a new invoice for payment.



The example from TRB Online (above) shows an approved five year cycle of registration (from 2017 to 2021):

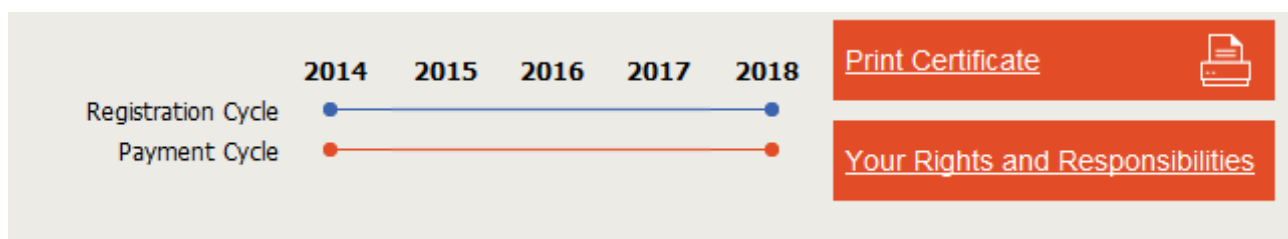
- The registration fees for 2017 and 2018 have been paid.
- The registration fees for 2019, 2020 and 2021 have not been paid.
- The registration fee for 2019 must be paid before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 or the registration will expire.

For more information about paying to maintain your registration see [Payment Frequently Asked Questions](#).

## When your approved cycle of registration expires

If your cycle of registration ends at the same time as your financial expiry date you can no longer simply pay to maintain your registration. Instead you have to either **renew your registration** or **apply for registration again**.

- If you have Full Registration or Specialist Vocational Education and Training Registration, you have to apply to renew your registration.
- If you have Provisional Registration you have to apply for registration again.



In the example above this teacher will need to take action (renew or reapply) in 2018. The option to “Renew Registration” or “Apply for New Registration” appears in your TRB Online account from the 1<sup>st</sup> September in the final year of your cycle. The process must be complete with a new cycle of approved registration in place before the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

While the two processes look quite similar there are important differences. A person who is renewing their registration has to demonstrate ongoing competence as a teacher – this means that the person has to meet the Board requirements for:

- Teaching service in your cycle of registration, and:
- Engagement in relevant professional learning.

For specific requirements please read the current [Renewal of Registration Policy](#).

If the person cannot demonstrate ongoing competence in this way the Board may grant conditional registration.

A person with provisional registration has to apply for registration again. This means that the person must apply for registration in their TRB Online account and has to meet the current criteria for teacher registration.

In both situations the person must be of good character and fit to teach.