

Communique to all Sector Heads

The Teachers Registration Board has introduced temporary measures to support all Tasmanian schools in all sectors with COVID-19-related staffing pressures, regarding:

- A) Special COVID Limited Authority to Teach Measures
 - School-specific Limited Authority to Teach (LAT) criteria for pre-service “student” teachers
 - Joint LAT requests by two or more schools
 - Generic Relief LATs opening now (instead of the usual Term 2 opening date)

- B) Special COVID measure to facilitate recently retired, previously registered teachers to return to the workforce

These measures are effective immediately and are subject to review. Any changes will be communicated with urgency.

A) Limited Authorities to Teach

Special COVID School-specific LATs for Pre-service “student” teachers

Student teachers currently undertaking an accredited Initial Teacher Education program are temporarily exempt from the criteria in the current policy which require the Board to assess a student’s progress, units completed and require successful completion of any professional experience placement.

Student teachers **must** meet all other criteria for school-specific LATs specified in the *Teachers Registration Act 2000*:

- the person does **not** meet the qualifications criteria for full or provisional registration, but **has the appropriate skills or experience** (that available registered teachers do not have)
- good character
- fitness to be a teacher
- current registration under the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* in respect of a regulated activity, within the meaning of that Act, that primarily relates to children.

LATs granted under this measure are a special class of COVID-19 LAT granted strictly for an initial limited period, directly tied to the review of this measure.

The initial duration of an approved COVID-19 LAT will be **from the approval date until the 8th of July, 2022**.

Schools and LAT holders will be notified of all current information regarding these temporary measures when a school-specific LAT request is granted.

Joint Special COVID school-specific LAT requests by two or more schools

If two or more schools view an individual potential LAT holder as suited to their needs created by COVID-related vacancies, it is **highly recommended** that they email trb.admin@trb.tas.gov.au requesting consideration for a cluster/joint LAT and provide suitable evidence of teacher recruitment.

All requests must specify each school and subject area (and FTE for each school) that the nominated LAT holder will be employed for if approved. Once approved, the LAT holder can **only** be employed within the scope and conditions of their individual LAT for that named cluster.

It is recommended that system schools (Department of Education and Christian Education Tasmania schools) centrally coordinate their cluster/joint LAT requests. All other schools should liaise with each other to make a cluster/joint LAT request.

Special COVID-Generic Relief LATs opening now

There is **no change to the application and approvals process** for this class of LAT other than that the Board has determined to open them earlier in the year (instead of the usual Term 2 opening date) than is usual to provide another avenue of support to schools and their students.

Review of COVID-19 LATs

A review of these measures will be completed, and its outcome notified to sectors by the end 17 June, 2022.

The Board will extend the initial approval period of COVID-19 LATs without further fee if the review clearly indicates that there is a continued need to meet COVID-19-related staffing pressures for schools **and** that these measures are not undermining the best interests and wellbeing of Tasmanian students.

B) Recently retired and previously registered teachers

Special COVID measure to facilitate recently retired, previously registered teachers to return to the workforce

- Teachers who retired and have had their good character and fitness to teach determined by the Board in the last 4 years, with 12 months or more remaining on their registration cycle, can pay a single year's registration fee and have their registration reinstated for the remainder of the 2022 calendar year.
- **Eligibility for this special provision is assessed on a case-by-case basis.** We recommend retired teachers contact the Office of the TRB for advice and assistance with this process.

All stakeholders are reminded that these measures are a temporary response to circumstances directly resulting from COVID-19 in 2022, and are not a change in Board policy