

RETURNING TO TEACHING

Fact Sheet

Updated October 2011

The Returning to Teaching condition

A 'Returning to Teaching' (RTT) condition is placed on a teacher's registration at the time of renewal of full registration if they do not have 'recency of practice' (teaching experience amounting to at least 200 days or 1000 hours in the previous five-year period of registration). The condition is met by successful completion of an approved Returning to Teaching program. A teacher may have a Returning to Teaching condition on his/her registration for a number of years. The condition only needs to be met if the teacher wishes to continue or return to teaching in a Queensland school. The purpose of the Returning to Teaching condition is to ensure that all practising teachers in Queensland have up-to-date knowledge, understanding and skills for teaching in Queensland schools.

Teachers likely not to have recency of practice

These teachers may include:

- Teachers who have taken extended leave during their five year period of registration
- Retired teachers, or those working in other areas, who want to maintain their registration
- Casual teachers who have undertaken fewer than 200 days of teaching in their five year period of registration.

When is the RTT program completed?

Teachers with a Returning to Teaching condition on their registration who wish to continue or return to teach in a Queensland school will be required to complete a Returning to Teaching professional development program that has been approved by the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT).

If you are currently teaching in a Queensland school the RTT program must be undertaken within one year of the date of renewal of your registration, or the date of the approval notice that you receive from QCT (whichever is the later).

If you are not currently teaching in a school, the RTT program must be undertaken within the period of one year immediately before you return to teaching in a Queensland school to one year immediately after you return to teaching in a school.

Examples – Teachers with RTT conditions

Craig is not currently teaching. His registration is renewed at the end of 2011 with the RTT condition. If he returns to teaching at the beginning of term 2 in 2012 he will need to have completed an approved RTT program by the beginning of term 2, 2013. Alternatively, Craig may choose to do the program in the year immediately before he returns to teaching.

Louise returned to part-time teaching in 2011 but taught for fewer than 200 days in her five year period of registration and had her registration renewed on 5 January 2012 with the RTT condition. She has not yet undertaken a RTT program so will need to complete an approved RTT program by 5 January 2013.

Kate is a supply teacher who teaches for about 30 days per year. Her registration is renewed at the end of 2011 with the RTT condition. Kate may do an approved RTT program either in the year immediately before or within a year from whenever she has her first day of supply teaching after renewal – for example, if her first day of teaching is 30 April 2012, she could do the RTT program in the year immediately before that date or she will have until 30 April 2013 to complete an approved RTT program.

Sean is a fully registered teacher working in another area. He has his registration renewed with the RTT condition. Sean does not intend to return to teach in a school for many years and can retain his full registration for this time. He will only have to complete a RTT program if he goes back to teaching in a school (and then may complete the RTT program either in the year immediately before he returns or within a year of the date he returns).

The RTT professional development program

What is a RTT professional development program?

Returning to Teaching programs are professional development programs that have been formally approved by the QCT. They are offered by a range of providers in different modes, including on-line delivery. Programs comprise 30 hours of engagement across five strands (see table below).

How do I know what program to do?

Only Returning to Teaching programs with prior formal QCT approval can be used to meet this condition. The QCT website lists all currently approved Returning to Teaching programs and provides links to obtain further information including enrolment information.

Who pays for the RTT program?

Whenever a fee is required for all or part of a Returning to Teaching program, the individual teacher is responsible for the costs

involved with completion of the program. Costs of programs will vary according to the provider of the program.

Will there be a process for recognition of prior learning?

Applications for recognition of prior learning (RPL) will be considered by the provider of the RTT program. Where a teacher can demonstrate relevant current knowledge and understandings against the content of a particular strand or specific topic of a strand as a result of recent learning, employment or experience, they may be eligible for RPL.

What happens if I don't undertake a RTT program within the required time?

This could have implications for your ongoing teacher registration and ability to obtain or continue employment as a teacher in Queensland schools. In such situations, please contact the QCT and the QCT will provide advice according to individual situations.

Five strands of the RTT program

Effective teaching practice	Curriculum and assessment	Syllabus implementation	Policies	Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ learner centred pedagogy ▪ literacy and numeracy current approaches ▪ challenge for all learners ▪ positive constructive student management ▪ cooperative learning practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ contemporary issues ▪ assessment of, for and as learning ▪ reporting ▪ assessment requirements in the phases of learning ▪ state and national requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ syllabuses/guidelines relevant to phases of learning and teaching responsibilities ▪ literacy and numeracy expectations ▪ updating curriculum knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ awareness of major policies and emerging priority areas ▪ child protection ▪ educational outcomes for Indigenous students ▪ partnerships with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ awareness of relevant legislation, including anti-discrimination, inclusion ▪ ethical frameworks ▪ role, functions and policies of QCT ▪ professional standards

Background

Under the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*, the QCT can renew a teacher's registration if the teacher:

- is suitable to teach; and
- has fulfilled or is fulfilling any condition of their registration; and
- either
 - o has practised as a teacher for at least one year (200 days) in the previous five years (has recency of practice) and has undertaken the required continuing professional development; or
 - o if the teacher does not have recency of practice the QCT must renew the person's registration subject to a Returning to Teaching condition. (In this case the teacher does not need to have met the continuing professional development requirements.)

'Teaching' for recency of practice purposes, means undertaking the duties of a teacher (delivering an educational program, assessing student participation in an educational program or otherwise administering or providing consistent and substantial educational leadership to an educational program) in an Australian school or in another setting where the educational program is based on a syllabus or kindergarten guideline approved or accredited by the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA). This means, for example, that the work in schools of non-teaching principals and educational advisers is included, as is teaching in an early childhood setting if delivering a QSA accredited/approved Kindergarten Guideline.

Review of the RTT Condition

A teacher may apply to the QCT for a review of a RTT condition using the Application for Review of RTT Condition Form on the QCT website at www.qct.edu.au.

However, please note the following provisions of the Act:

- The QCT must renew a teacher's registration with a RTT condition if a teacher does not have recency of practice.
- The QCT may amend the condition, which includes omitting it, for clerical reasons or for other reasons as might be requested by the teacher. Amendment might apply where, for example, the teacher provides further evidence that the recency of practice requirements have been satisfied in the previous five year period of registration.
- The QCT may only cancel a RTT condition if the QCT has evidence of the teacher's satisfactory completion of the required RTT program.

For the QCT to recognise other experience as the equivalent of teaching at a school, specific criteria must be met. Teachers who have other teaching experience that they can demonstrate meets the specific criteria (refer to the QCT website) can apply for a review of their RTT condition, if their total amount of teaching experience is 200 days or more for the previous registration period.