

News for teachers from the QCT

June 2013

QCT eNews is published by the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) for Queensland approved teachers. It is emailed every second month during the school year to all those on our register with an email address.

The QCT protects the public and the teaching profession by working to ensure that all teachers in Queensland schools meet professional standards of competence and conduct.

In this edition of QCT eNews you'll find the following articles:

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QCT Research Digest returns

We are pleased to announce the return of the [QCT Research Digest](#) after a break of two-and-a-half years. This series of publications looks at the research on various aspects of teaching. Each issue of the *Digest* focusses on a single topic, reviewing the messages from research on the area and emphasising what the research means for teachers and teaching.

The new edition is on Teaching Critical Thinking, a particularly important topic in the current context where teachers are expected to emphasise 'twenty-first century skills' in their teaching. The Digest summarises related theory, research and policy issues and examines different definitions and views of critical thinking and different approaches to teaching critical thinking. In particular it examines ways of posing higher-order critical thinking questions and the teaching of routines for critical thinking. A key feature of this and future research Digests is that each edition will make explicit links with the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers* (AITSL, 2012).

Areas looked at in previous issues include: Managing Student Behaviour in the Classroom, Using Data to Improve Learning, The Use of ICT in Schools, and Successful Professional Learning.

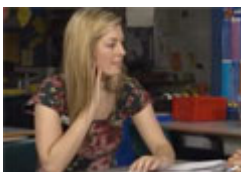
All nine issues to date are available via the Publications pages of the QCT website (www.qct.edu.au/Publications/periodicalpub.html).



New resource - Supervising Preservice Teachers

The Queensland College of Teachers has partnered with the New South Wales Institute of Teachers and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership to produce an online professional learning experience, 'Supervising Preservice Teachers'. This is an interactive and self-directed online professional learning program that supports teachers who are either supervising a preservice teacher, or thinking about a supervising role.

The four online modules - Effective Partnerships, Practice Analysis, Making Judgements and Unpacking the Graduate Standards - will enhance the knowledge and skills of those who supervise preservice teachers during a professional placement experience. The modules can be found at aitsl.edu.au/spt



Focus on a standard

The *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers* (APST) is a public statement describing the professional knowledge, professional practice and professional engagement required of teachers. The Standards also underpin registration decisions at different career

junctions. Copies of the APST can be downloaded from www.qct.edu.au/Standards/view.html

In each issue of *QCT eNews* during 2013 we will look at a specific standard or descriptor/s by providing general information as well as links to resources such as the *Illustrations of Practice* commissioned by the Australian Institute of Teaching and School leadership (AITSL). Illustrations of Practice are artefacts such as videos, lesson plans or work samples that show what the APST look like in practice.

In the April edition of *QCT eNews* we considered **Standard 4: Create and maintain supportive and safe learning environments** with a focus on behaviour management. This edition, we focus on assessment.

Standard 5: Assess, provide feedback and report on student learning reflects the work of teachers in assessing the work of students, both informally and formally, and using that assessment data to assist student learning. The standard considers the appropriate use of assessment strategies, the impact of effective feedback, understanding moderation to establish consistency and the use of student data to modify teaching practice and report on achievement.

Of AITSL's Illustrations of Practice, two in particular focus on moderation of student work at the Proficient level. These examples may be accessed at:

www.teacherstandards.aitsl.edu.au/Illustrations/Details/IOP00097
Moderation in this example considers the work of a Year One teacher in identifying the instructional teaching strategies required to continue to develop the student's writing skills.

www.teacherstandards.aitsl.edu.au/Illustrations/ViewIOP/IOP00052
This example considers the moderation of two teachers who engage in team teaching. They discuss their students' work from a summative task, making comparable judgements about the students' learning to ascertain future teaching strategies and provide consistent feedback to the students.



QCT workshops and information sessions for Term 3, 2013

Many teachers have already participated in a range of QCT workshops regarding the Australian Professional Standards for

Teachers during Term 2. These are continuing into Term 3 in St George, Roma, Kingaroy, Mackay, Mt Isa, Maryborough and Longreach.

Missed out or workshops not coming to a place near you? Online opportunities to engage with these materials will be available on the QCT website later in the year. We will advise in a later issue of *QCT eNews* when the online materials will be available.



Seeking costs at QCAT

The Board of the QCT determined at its May meeting that it was appropriate for the QCT to seek costs against teachers who are the subject of disciplinary proceedings before the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT). Costs would be sought only where the teacher is found 'not suitable to teach'.

The Board noted that very few teachers are subject to disciplinary action but that the actions of this small cohort imposed a significant financial impost upon all teachers on the register. The decision to apply for costs before QCAT seeks to redress that inequality and reduce the costs of disciplinary matters to the QCT and thereby to all approved teachers.



2013 census

To ensure that only registered teachers are teaching in Queensland schools the QCT conducts an annual census of all teachers employed in schools. The QCT recently conducted the annual census of schools on 12-14 June 2013. If you are a principal of a non-state school and have not yet completed a census for 2013 please [complete your census](#) now.

DETE Principals will not receive information about the census this year as the census information will be provided directly to the QCT by the Department of Education, Training and Employment.



QCT Teacher Research Grants 2013

The QCT awards a small number of research grants annually to practising teachers to assist them to present their research at key Australian education conferences. The grant provides financial

assistance towards conference registration fees and travel and accommodation associated with conference attendance.

This year four applications have been successful. As a result, teachers from state and non-state schools in Brisbane, Townsville, and on the Sunshine Coast will receive support from the QCT to attend and present papers at conferences in Adelaide and Darwin later this year.

For further information about QCT Teacher Research Grants, please see the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) on the QCT website.



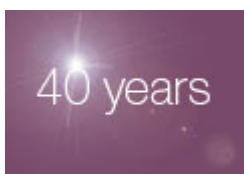
QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards - Nominations close 12 July

Nominations are open for the 2013 annual QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards. Registered teachers from State, Catholic and Independent schools are eligible for nomination in four award categories. The categories are Excellence in Beginning to Teach, Excellence in Teaching, Excellent Leadership in Teaching and Learning, and Outstanding Contribution to Teaching.

Nominating a teacher for an award is recognition of a colleague's hard work and a celebration of their achievements that enrich the school community. More information is available on the QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards website: www.qct.edu.au/awards.

Finalists will be named in early October and invited to participate in a presentation ceremony on World Teachers' Day, Friday 25 October 2013.

Sponsorship from QT Mutual Bank, Teachers Union Health and *The Courier-Mail* provides funding for finalists and exemplary achievements will be showcased to promote the profession.



Fortieth anniversary of teacher registration in Queensland

What important events happened in Australia in 1973? Here are a few:

- The federal voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 years
- The Whiskey Au Go Go nightclub fire occurred in Brisbane
- The Sydney Opera House was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II

- Novelist Patrick White was announced as Australian of the Year

And teacher registration was introduced in Queensland, making this State the first in Australia to have a system of teacher registration applying to both government and non-government schools. Registration was then administered by the Board of Teacher Education, whose establishment in 1971 marked an important step in the development of teaching as a profession in Queensland. Through the Board, teachers gained a large measure of peer group control of entry standards, assessment and regulation, instead of the former situation whereby the employing authorities (which were also the training authorities) controlled standards of entry to the profession.

Readers of our *eNews* are invited to send in material (e.g. copies of any photographs or other memorabilia, or any personal recollections or stories) about teaching in Queensland in the early 1970s that would be appropriate to share with other registered teachers via the QCT. Selected items may be included in future issues of *QCT eNews* or other QCT publications. Please ensure all contributions are as fully labelled as possible (e.g. names, dates, locations) and that you have permission to share them in this way.

Contributions can be sent via enquiries@qct.edu.au, with '40 years of registration' in the subject line or by post to '40 years of registration', PO Box 389, Toowong Qld 4066.



Workshop: Engaging Teachers in Staff Meetings and your School-Wide Pedagogical Framework

Date: Saturday 27 July 2013

Time: 8:30 registration for a 9:00am start

Place: Stuartholme School, Birdwood Terrace, Toowong

Presenter: Eric Frangenheim (author of *Reflections on Classroom Thinking Strategies* and co-author of *The Innovative Teachers' Companions*)

Cost: \$80 (includes morning tea)

The Instructional Leader's classroom is the staff room. Principals, deputies and curriculum leaders who present at staff meetings have an important opportunity to model and promote excellent instructional practice within the context of their school-wide pedagogical framework.

In this workshop, several carefully chosen cognitive and co-operative tools will be explored and practised. Employing these tools will enable school leaders to tailor meetings to suit the audience and purpose of each meeting. This will result in benefits such as more focussed, shorter meetings and genuine consultation leading to a greater sense of participation, engagement and ownership for schools.

Towards the end of the workshop, delegates will have an opportunity to share how they will enhance their staff meetings as a result of what was shared within this workshop and within the need to promote a SWP Framework.

For more information and registration details go to www.pedagogy.org.au and click on workshops.



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