

News for teachers from the QCT

October 2012

QCT eNews is published by the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) for Queensland registered 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.

Welcome to our final issue for 2012. In this edition of QCT eNews you'll find information about:

- **QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards**
- **World Teachers' Day**
- **Email alerts**
- **Learnings from disciplinary cases – a cautionary tale**
- **Training – keep QCT in mind**
- **Win an iPad by reviewing teacher education**
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QCT Teaching Awards

Inspiring teachers from across Queensland have been recognised as finalists in the annual Queensland College of Teachers [Excellence in Teaching Awards](#).

The 2012 Awards attracted more than 120 nominations, showcasing some of the most inspiring achievements of state, Catholic and Independent school teachers across Queensland.

Now boasting four categories with the addition this year of the 'Dr John Dwyer Award for Excellent Leadership in Teaching and Learning', the annual awards aim to recognise and celebrate the achievements of inspiring teachers from across Queensland, who go 'above and beyond' to help their students learn.

The 2012 award categories are 'Excellent Leadership in Teaching and Learning', 'Outstanding Contribution to Teaching', 'Excellence in Teaching' and 'Excellence in Beginning to Teach'.

Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek will present the four winners with their awards at a special World Teachers' Day celebration at Parliament House on Friday October 26.

Queensland College of Teachers Board Chair Dr Joe McCorley OAM said the annual awards were a great way to recognise the contribution of teachers in communities.

A [full list of finalists](#) is available [here](#).



World Teachers' Day – Friday 26 October 2012

World Teachers' Day recognises the important role teachers play in today's world. This year our theme is 'Teachers Inspire'.

Celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teachers' Day is symbolic of the hard work done in classrooms and of hopes for our next generation. Introduced in 1994 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), it is a day on which students, parents and community members are encouraged to show their appreciation for the contributions that teachers have made to their community.

World Teachers' Day posters have been mailed to schools for display in classrooms. Schools are encouraged to mention in their newsletters that teacher [appreciation certificates](#) are available for download from the [QCT website](#).

[See our colourful webpage](#) for more information.



Email alerts

The QCT is pleased to announce that it has recently commenced notifying teachers via email whenever their fee or other notices are about to be mailed to them. We hope that by forewarning teachers of pending notices, teachers who may have forgotten to change their mailing address will be prompted to update it and, if they wish, pay their fee even before the paper notice is received. This improvement to our customer service should reduce the number of teachers who find themselves having to pay late fees or having to reapply for teacher registration.

If you are about to change your email address please remember to update it via online services at www.qct.edu.au so you do not miss out on these email alerts.



Learnings from disciplinary cases – a cautionary tale

A recent disciplinary matter before the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) has highlighted the need for teachers to exercise a degree of caution when undertaking the role of counsellor, particularly in situations involving vulnerable students.

In the case before QCAT a popular male teacher at a secondary school undertook the role of counsellor to a teenage girl who had a difficult home environment. This teacher was not qualified as a counsellor. Over the next few months the student became more emotionally dependent upon the teacher and the relationship became unduly close. For example, over the Christmas break they texted each other over 1000 times. The relationship was discovered by another student who notified the Principal who then made the appropriate formal/legal notifications. Ultimately the ground for disciplinary action - namely, that the teacher was not suitable to teach -- was established and the teacher's registration was cancelled.

The QCAT decision highlights that teachers undertaking roles such as counsellor should ensure they maintain appropriate professional boundaries, make contemporaneous notes of their interactions and advice provided, follow the directions of superiors, be sufficiently self-aware to recognise when they are out of their depth and need further assistance, and seek the support they need.



Training – keep QCT in mind

The QCT is available to attend and make presentations at staff training days in 2013.

In particular, the Legal and Professional Conduct Unit of the QCT are keen to engage with employing authorities, principals, Child Protection officers and teachers to discuss topics such as: grounds for disciplinary action, ethical behaviour, outcomes of disciplinary cases and teacher and employing authority obligations under the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act*.

For all enquiries please contact Kylie Mercer, Manager, Discipline & Appeals on 07 3377 4773 or kylie.mercer@qct.edu.au



Win an iPad by reviewing teacher education

All teachers who graduated in 2010/2011 are invited to join with a Deakin University led team to investigate the effectiveness of teacher education programs in preparing teachers for the variety of school settings in which they begin their careers.

Through online surveys the SETE project is seeking feedback on the relevance and effectiveness of teacher education for teaching employment.

Survey responses will inform policy and programs by leading to a better understanding of the experiences of graduate teachers in their first years of work.

The survey is part of a three-year longitudinal study being conducted by Deakin University in partnership with Griffith University, the Queensland Department of Education and Training, the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and the Queensland College of Teachers.

Teachers who complete surveys could **win an iPad3 (WiFi, 32GB)**. The survey is at <http://tinyurl.com/8v55jfz> or for more information contact:

jodie.kline@deakin.edu.au or phillipa.hodder@deakin.edu.au

The SETE study runs concurrently with the national Longitudinal Teacher Education Workforce Study. The SETE project is supported by Australian Research Council funding.



Contribute to New Research: Does Climate Change Education have a place in Australian classrooms?

Teachers' perspectives are important and climate change education is a complex issue. Researchers at James Cook University are investigating teachers' perspectives on climate change education. Responses are sought from **diverse perspectives**. Whether you feel strongly or are indifferent about climate change education, your opinions are important.

The online survey can be found by clicking the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/climatechangeeducation

- All online survey responses are **anonymous**
- The online survey will take approximately **10 minutes** to complete
- You may provide responses via the phone, email or Skype

If you would like more information please contact principal researcher Jennifer Nicholls (jennifer.nicholls@my.jcu.edu.au) at James Cook University's School of Education.



Teacher stress in Qld secondary schools

Are you stressed as a secondary teacher?
Why are you stressed?
Tell us all about it.

You can do so in this survey: [click here](#).

The survey forms part of a Doctoral study into secondary teacher stress in Queensland schools. Ethical approval has been granted by the Ethics Approval department of Griffith University and the approval number is (GU Ref No: EBL/92/10/HREC). Further information can be found on the survey link above.

The survey will close on 7 November 2012.



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