

Information for Prospective Board Members

Introduction

The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) is a Queensland government statutory body, established in January 2006. Funded mainly through teacher registration fees paid by teachers, its purpose is to regulate and govern the teaching profession in Queensland in the best interests of the profession and the public. The QCT is accountable to the Minister for Education, to teachers and to the wider public.

The QCT works directly with the teaching profession and with key education stakeholder groups to support and promote the teaching profession, to uphold the standards of the teaching profession, to maintain public confidence in the teaching profession, and to protect the public by ensuring education in schools is provided in a professional and competent way by approved teachers.

The QCT's purpose, vision, values, current goals and objectives are stated in its Strategic Plan, which is available on the QCT website and should be read in conjunction with the information in this document.

Board composition

The Board is made up of 15 members, most of whom must be registered teachers. Three practising teachers are directly elected by teachers, while the remaining members are nominated by employer organisations, teacher unions, parent and community organisations, and the higher education forum. Thus those who serve on the Board reflect the diversity of the education community. Board members are appointed by the Queensland Government, for a term of up to three years.

Board members form a vital link between practising teachers, members of the teaching profession and the wider public.

The role of Board members

The Board is the governing body of the QCT. The Board decides the strategic direction of the QCT, controls its affairs, carries out its functions, and exercises the powers of the QCT under the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005* (the Act).

The role of Board members therefore includes responsibilities in relation to:

- effective governance of the QCT
- strategic management and direction to support achievement of the QCT's functions
- reviewing, approving and monitoring the QCT strategic plan and annual budget
- contributing to the development of Board and QCT policies
- monitoring of risks facing the QCT
- compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements of the QCT.

Board members must:

- understand the accountabilities and financial obligations, and comply with the legal requirements, of being a Board member, including confidentiality requirements
- meet certain fiduciary duties and responsibilities
- comply with the Queensland Government Code of Conduct.

Qualities and experience required

A passion for education

The QCT was established to advance the reputation of the profession through effective regulation in the public interest and the development of sound, evidence-based policies on teaching. Board members act as advocates for teachers, teaching and the QCT and are expected to act in the best interests of the teaching profession as a whole rather than of the particular entity or group through which they were nominated or elected to the Board.

Integrity and conscientiousness

Board members take part in the QCT's regulatory work, sitting on committees related to its functions including professional standards, professional conduct and corporate governance. Experience of reading and analysing complex documents to reach a fair judgement in the public interest is advantageous. The volume of paperwork required can be substantial. Members are accountable for the work of the QCT, including planning its budget and setting fees. Members must at all times act ethically, with appropriate independence, putting the QCT's interests before personal interests.

Professional credibility

The QCT advises the Minister for Education on a wide range of issues related to the teaching profession. It draws on research evidence and the expertise of practising teachers. Board members need the professional credibility to contribute to the development of QCT policy. Experience as a classroom teacher or school leader is very important.

Strategic vision

The Board sets the direction for the work of the QCT. Members need to be able to think strategically and ensure that the Board focuses its attention on the key issues affecting the profession.

Team working

Members must be able to work effectively in a team, participating in debates and respecting the aim of reaching consensus.

The commitment

Being a Board member may require an overall commitment of up to 20 days per year in school term time. Board meetings are held six-weekly from February to December. Members should expect to attend at least eight Board meetings a year as well as meetings of QCT committees and working parties. In addition to the 20 days, members need to prepare for Board and committee meetings by reading and considering the (often extensive) documentation provided.

Location of meetings

Board and Committee meetings are normally held at the QCT's office in Brisbane. For members living outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, travel could add to the time commitment required. During COVID-19 restrictions, meetings have been held online.

Expenses and support

The QCT pays travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses for any in-person attendance at meetings for members from outside of the Brisbane metropolitan area. Practising teachers are also supported through the payment of Teacher Replacement Salaries (TRS) to ensure that their school and students are not disadvantaged by their commitment to the work of the QCT.

The QCT will arrange for appropriate training and induction for new Board members and ongoing professional development support of members whilst in office.