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Director's Welcome



I am constantly impressed by the resilience of teachers.

Despite the challenges faced by the profession over the past few years, you have been steady and crucial mentors for students – giving them the tools they need to succeed academically and feel safe at school. More recently, some of you are also navigating extreme weather events as you commence the year.

At the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT), we value quality teaching and child safety above all else.

You are integral in helping us achieve this.

In the wider education landscape, the QCT is a small part. Our [primary role](#) enables appropriately qualified people to register as teachers by meeting rigorous professional standards.

By extension, our role protects the reputation of the profession by:

- checking approved teachers continue to meet eligibility requirements
- arranging criminal history checks of approved teachers and applicants
- accrediting initial teacher education (ITE) programs for provisional registration of new teachers
- granting teacher Certification at the Highly Accomplished and Lead career stages of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST)

- investigating and acting on teacher conduct matters

We also have an important role in promoting the profession, through our annual TEACHX Awards, competitions, media liaison, and opportunities for professional development like our [Research Grants for Teachers](#) which you can read more about below.

We rely on you, the state's teachers, to help us uphold the reputation of the profession and continue encouraging others to join. How we speak about our profession helps shape how others – including future teachers – see us.

I look forward to hearing from you this year with our upcoming [QCT Board Elections](#), as well as [your stories](#) to promote in our channels.

And for our new provisionally registered teachers looking at your professional development needs this year, consider that your initial teacher education program was just that – initial. We welcome you to a profession that values continuous learning. Consider the parts of your teaching that interest you or you feel you could learn more.

We thank you for continuing to choose to teach in Queensland and wish you all the best for the 2024 academic year.

Deanne Fishburn

Director (CEO) & Registered teacher

Unlock opportunities to share your research



"It feels very rewarding to be recognised by our own organisation for the hard work that we do and to be able to support each other in our profession."

Research Grants for Teachers applications are now open.

This unique opportunity allows registered Queensland teachers to present their innovative research projects at key education conferences.

Offered each year, the grants are part of the QCT's commitment to promote the profession and support teachers with their professional development and share their insights to inspire and inform colleagues.

Successful applicants receive grants to help cover conference registration fees, travel, and accommodation.

Paid as reimbursement, they are available to registered practising teachers in Queensland primary or secondary schools, or relevant early childhood settings. Teachers must be currently undertaking research or have recently completed it.

Past recipients have showcased their research to national educator audiences and made meaningful contributions to the education sector, while also benefiting from networking and professional development opportunities.

Last year, two grant recipients from Cairns State High School were able to attend the 24th Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) International Languages Conference in Perth.

Mara Ballarini and Floriana Torelli ([a 2022 TEACHX Awards finalist](#)) presented their joint research paper, 'From little things big things grow: CLIL bites turn into a successful Immersion programme in Regional Australia.'

This research aimed to find the benefits of using Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) to support Languages education in a regional secondary setting by teaching other subjects in Italian. In Mara and Floriana's case, this was the teaching of Humanities.

In July 2023, they attended the main conference event at Edith Cowan University and other satellite events at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Following their presentation, Mara and Floriana were asked to present at an AFMLTA online workshop. They have also been asked to present at the next CLIL conference in Perth in 2025.

They said attending the conference wouldn't have been possible without the grant: "We were delighted to be able to attend this conference and present our findings to hopefully support and inspire other teachers in similar situations or wanting to undertake similar journeys. It feels very rewarding to be recognised by our own organisation (the QCT) for the hard work that we do for our students and to be able to support each other in our profession."

Applications for 2024 grants close at the end of Term 1. For more information and how to apply, [visit our website](#).

You can also download an application form [here](#).

Permission to Teach offers pathway opportunities



[Permission To Teach](#) (PTT) is granted to address teaching shortages in particular areas in schools.

As the number of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) students working under a PTT has grown over the past few years, the QCT has partnered with Central Queensland University (CQU) in a new research project to examine the features of a successful transition into the profession when commencing teaching under the PTT process.

The QCT recently spoke to Head of Agriculture, Technologies, and Arts at St George State High School, Caitlin Crowe ([a 2023 TEACHX Awards recipient](#)), who began her teaching career on a PTT.

"I completed two placements in St George utilising the 'Beyond the Range' grant to cover costs and then was asked if I would be willing to stay on at the school on 'Permission To Teach.' I loved the school and community so jumped at the chance."

Caitlin acknowledged the guidance those around her gave. "I received excellent support from mentor teachers, Heads of Departments, and Deputy Principals who were able to accommodate my university needs where necessary."

Now in a leadership position as Head of Department for Agriculture, Technologies, and Arts, Caitlin says PTT made the transition into teaching much easier than she expected.

"I had already established a strong relationship with my mentor teacher as well, knowing where and how to access support and the current school procedures," she said.

"Now being in my fifth year at St George State High School and seeing new teachers starting out, I definitely think PTT made my transition into the first years of teaching much less stressful."

"I also felt I was able to develop my teaching style, so I was able to start strong the following year to establish clear expectations and classroom routines."

If you are a teacher willing to participate in a survey that will be distributed to those who have recently completed a PTT, the QCT would like to hear from you. CQU researchers will conduct interviews as well to support the findings soon.

If you are interested in the research, please contact media@qct.edu.au

Call for practising teacher nominations for the QCT board



Are you interested in the standards of the profession and helping to uphold them statewide?

The current term of appointment of the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Board concludes at the end of 2024, which means three practising teachers must be elected before then for a new term of appointment commencing 2025.

Of the three elected practising teachers, two must be from the State school sector and one from the non-State school sector.

Nominations for the three positions are open from **Friday 8 March to Friday 5 April 2024**, with the election to take place from **Friday 10 May to Friday 7 June 2024**. Nominations and voting will be conducted online.

The election will be managed on behalf of the QCT by CorpVote, an independent specialist election management company.

All Queensland practising teachers are encouraged to consider whether they have the capabilities and commitment to be an effective QCT Board member. Interested teachers should read the [Information for Prospective Board Members](#) before submitting a nomination.

QCT X Ruby Olive - Be the Designer Competition



We're calling on all creative registered teachers to submit a design to be showcased at the 2024 International Forum of Teacher Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA) Conference in Brisbane.

To further promote the excellence of Queensland's teachers, we've partnered with Queensland designer [Ruby Olive](#) to give creative registered teachers the opportunity to submit a lanyard design, which will be gifted to attendees of the 2024 IFTRA Conference.

Following the conference, the winning design will be featured on Ruby Olive lanyards available for public purchase. A percentage of these sales will be donated to a charity selected by the winner in collaboration with Ruby Olive and the QCT.

To find out more or submit a design, [please visit our website](#).

IFTRA is an international forum of global teacher regulatory authorities. Through the conference, members share their work and discuss regulatory matters.

This is an exciting opportunity to showcase our teacher registration system and its important role in protecting education standards, student safety, and upholding the reputation of the profession in Queensland.

[Click here to hear members of IFTRA discuss the conference theme.](#)

We are proud to be partnering with major sponsor, [Queensland University of Technology \(QUT\)](#), to make the conference possible. The QCT does not draw funds from teachers' registration fees to host events like the IFTRA Conference.

Teacher registration cancelled for student relationships



A recent Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) decision highlights community expectations that teachers must always act in a position of trust with students, in or outside of the school setting.

The way a teacher behaves towards a student in out of school settings, or in another capacity, is relevant to the professional standards and responsibilities of a teacher.

With three years of teaching experience in a primary school, the teacher (identified as CHR in the QCAT ruling) originally had his registration suspended by the QCT after being determined to pose an unacceptable risk of harm to children.

The conduct concerned allegations he engaged in a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old school student, and an intimate relationship with a 17-year-old student, neither of whom attended the school CHR taught at.

After meeting at a 4WD group, CHR engaged in sexualised physical contact with the first student on a camping trip - fully aware they were a student. With the same student, he engaged in overfamiliar and inappropriate electronic communication, in which he attempted to initiate a relationship telling them: "(I) think I may love you."

CHR also engaged in inappropriate communications with the second student and transported them to and from a beach and engaged in sexualised physical contact; again, aware they were a student.

CHR sought to impede investigators by providing misleading answers and blaming the students for pursuing him. He declined to assist with later portions of the investigation and did not provide information to the Tribunal.

After discussion of the uncontested facts and examination of the extensive investigative materials, the Tribunal was satisfied that grounds for disciplinary action was established and issued him with a reprimand. The teacher's registration was cancelled for four-and-a-half years. If the teacher reapplies for registration after this time, he will be required to submit a psychologist's report deemed satisfactory by the QCT.

Outlined in the QCT's [Professional Boundaries: A Guideline for Queensland Teachers](#), teachers owe a higher duty of care to students and must act to ensure their physical and emotional wellbeing is always safeguarded, regardless of whether a direct teacher-student relationship exists. The teacher-student relationship is not equal, as teachers are in a unique position of authority and influence with students.

2023 Photo Competition winners



We received a significant number of entries from schools across Queensland for our 2023 Photo Competition.

We asked for photographs that fit the brief of the theme 'My Teacher Life: Capturing the diversity of everyday teaching moments.'

At the end of Term 4, our judges selected three winners and ten runners up from the collection of high-quality images.

The following schools won cash prizes, generously provided by our sponsors [TUH](#):

- First prize - \$1,000: Clifton State High School
- Second prize - \$750: St Monica's College, Cairns
- Third prize - \$500: Coomera Anglican College

Ten runners up - \$250 each:

- St Margaret's Anglican School, Ascot
- Woree State School
- St Laurence's College, South Brisbane
- Freshwater Christian College, Brinsmead
- Norris Road State School, Bracken Ridge
- St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, Cornubia
- St John's Anglican College, Forest Lake
- Corinda State High School
- Holy Spirit College, Manoora
- Compass Independent School, Kelvin Grove

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all teachers and schools for entering.

You can view all winning and runner up images [here](#).

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