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Emily's journey from teacher's aide to registered teacher



Emily Graham's dedication to Indigenous language education began as a teacher aide (TA) in a rural Queensland community.

In her second year of studying education, Emily became a TA at Eidsvold P-12 State School.

Formerly a Sunshine Coast local, her time at Eidsvold left a positive mark on her teaching journey and sparked a passion for teaching Indigenous languages.

"I learnt so many invaluable skills in my time in Eidsvold. I was lucky to watch multiple teachers and their teaching styles from Prep to Year 12."

"It was in this time that I drew on and noted the values I wanted to have in my future classroom and the type of teacher I wanted to become," she said.

Becoming involved with Eidsvold's Wakka Wakka Indigenous language revival program showed her the power of teachers bringing reconciliation to their classrooms.

"I worked alongside an amazing community and Principal who opened my eyes to what reconciliation means. I was so blessed to be involved with and watch as the language of the region was revitalised by utilising linguists, local Elders, and community members."

A visit to a career fair in her final year of study offered Emily an opportunity to complete her final placement at Tagai College on Darney Island in the outer Torres Strait.

Emily could not have predicted where this decision would lead her.

"After this placement I was offered a Permission to Teach at Boigu Island. I was taken by the beauty of the Torres Strait, the amazing community, and students who are so eager to learn."

Preservice teachers who are granted Permission to Teach (PTT) are generally in the final stages of their education program and are continuing their studies while they are teaching under PTT.

Now a registered teacher, Emily had the chance to experience several islands of the Torres Strait before arriving on Thursday Island where she currently teaches.

Emily's teaching journey was recognised last year when she was shortlisted for the TEACHX Awards' Excellence in Beginning to Teach category. Her colleagues commended her dedication to literacy in an EAL/D context, her commitment to the profession, and improving culturally informed practice, even before having a classroom of her own.

Emily continues her work to promote Indigenous languages. She has collaborated with Torres Strait business Athe Threads to distribute a series of flashcards teaching traditional language words to schools in the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast regions.

Her work with this small business also saw over 50 pencil cases and school resources donated to the local students at her island.

Emily is currently studying for her Masters; researching ways to teach English and literacy skills to First Nations people. She hopes to continue into a PhD field of research.

"I know as a teacher, I am a forever learner, and I am so grateful for every island and every new challenge that has enabled me to become a more resilient and capable educator."

TEACHX nominations close this Friday



Nominations for the 2024 TEACHX Awards close on Friday 17 May.

Queensland registered teachers can submit nominations online via our [website](#).

Please consider which of the seven categories a colleague's achievements are suited for:

- [Innovation in Teaching](#)
- [Outstanding Contribution to Teaching](#)
- [Excellence in Beginning to Teach](#)
- [Excellence in Teaching](#)
- [Excellent Leadership in Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Outstanding Contribution to School Community](#)
- [Excellence in Teacher Education \(Higher Education Institute\)](#)

Now in their sixteenth year, the awards recognise outstanding Queensland teachers in state and non-state schools, and early childhood settings.

2024 TEACHX Award winners will be celebrated at a ceremony in Brisbane on Thursday 24 October – the eve of World Teachers' Day in Queensland.

Keep an eye on our [website](#) for updates.

Vote in the QCT Board Election 2024



Voting for the [2024 QCT Board Election](#) is now open and closes on 7 June 2024. Voting instructions have been sent to the email address associated with your myQCT account.

The QCT Board is made up of 15 members. We need your vote to decide who the next three practising teacher (two state and one non-state school) representatives will be. They form a vital link between the QCT and the profession.

After sitting on the Board since 2019, outgoing member Bryce Goldberg reflects on his time as the elected non-state school practising teacher:



"The Board oversees the teaching profession in Queensland, with a focus on teacher quality from Initial Teacher Education to maintaining ongoing profession development – the Board's policies and initiatives are the benchmark within Australia."

Bryce stressed the importance for registered teachers to vote in the election.

"It is every teacher's right to have representation on the Board. This ensures that teachers guide their own profession, make decisions about registration and disciplinary action," he said.

"It is better to step up and get involved than to question why we do things that way!"

Bryce takes satisfaction in knowing he has collaborated with, and influenced and advocated for, the teaching profession in Queensland.

"A highlight of my time on the Board is knowing I have tried to enhance the profession by assisting the College perform its functions. Board meetings enlighten and question why we all teach; I hope I provided some guidance along the way."

Read more about the QCT Board and the role of our Board members at our [website](#).

How much do you know about QCT's regulatory enforcement?



Do you know about the robust processes we use to regulate teaching in Queensland?

Our [Regulatory enforcement strategy](#) outlines what we do every day to protect children and uphold the standards of the teaching profession.

Launched this month, the strategy provides teachers, schools, and our stakeholders with a comprehensive look at our regulatory blueprint, including:

- our approach - general compliance and teacher disciplinary pathways
- our risk-based assessment

- our enforcement powers
- our promotion and collaboration with the profession.

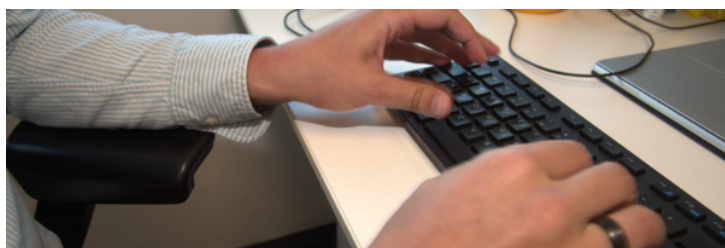
Teacher registration protects the public and the profession by identifying those who have satisfied the required standards.

At the core of our compliance, discipline and enforcement functions, the primary considerations are the welfare and best interests of children.

To promote child safety, we monitor each teacher's suitability and check that schools are only engaging approved teachers in teaching duties.

We encourage you to check out the [Regulatory enforcement strategy](#) and contact us with any teacher conduct or compliance concerns at enquiries@qct.edu.au.

Survey for career change teachers



Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is calling on all career change teachers to share their experiences in an ongoing survey.

Supported by an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant and the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT), the [Career change teachers: Addressing teacher shortages in Australia](#) project seeks to understand their differing motivations and experiences.

The project will also help determine how career change teachers can be better prepared and supported through their early years of teaching.

A career change teacher is defined as someone who entered the teaching profession after the age of 25, and who had a previous job or role (including parenting) before becoming a teacher.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and should take approximately 15 minutes. Participants will also have the chance to win an Apple iPad.

[Take part in the survey here](#) before the end of May.

Countdown to IFTRA conference

Watch the video below to hear Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Director Deanne Fishburn discuss the work of teacher regulators and the upcoming International Forum of Teacher

Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA) Conference in Brisbane from 18-19 June 2024.

The QCT is partnering with other Australian teacher regulatory authorities and major sponsor Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to host this year's conference.

It will be attended by leaders and decision makers in education and regulation policy from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Canada, Iceland, Africa, the Pacific and New Zealand.

The IFTRA Conference is a ticketed event that does not draw on teacher registration fees.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/KCjxivZtRho?showinfo=1&el=0>

Be the Designer competition winners



The QCT would like to thank all teachers who submitted entries in the Ruby Olive X QCT 'Be the Designer' competition.

We were inundated with so many high quality lanyard designs. The winning design will be given to delegates at the International Forum of Teacher Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA) Conference in June.

Hear from the top three designers on their inspirations:

Winner: Ben Tupas, Harristown State High School – *Perfect Point*

"I'm a high school teacher based on Giabal, Jarowair and Western Wakka land (Toowoomba, QLD). I teach and support a range of students from diverse backgrounds including young people with a disability, and newly arrived learners with English as an additional language/dialect.

My design was actually inspired by a student sharpening their pencil straight onto the classroom floor. I liked the urgency of their desire to get writing. I'm playing with the universal idea of what a freshly sharpened pencil symbolises: a new idea, a fresh start, and the start of learning in its most embryonic phase.

I did get the student to pick up their pencil shavings and put it into the bin."

Runner Up: Mariah Sweetman, Grace Lutheran College – *Stories of Earth and Dust*

"I love working with passionate colleagues and students, I love the funny stories and I love the opportunity to be a life long learner; the opportunities for development in the teaching profession. I love to share my passion with younger generation. I'm particularly passionate about First Nations histories so that is an amazing part about teaching for me.

I am a proud member of the Ugarapul tribe, so this pattern was a contemporary design based on the sunset landscape around my house of Gubbi Gubbi Country. I am passionate about First Nations stories in the classroom, so as well as sharing my art I've written Robert Runs, a Young Adult novel as a classroom tool to help young people engage with First Nations histories."

Second Runner Up: Yana Ford, St Rita's College Clayfield – *Heart and Soul*

"For the past 10 years I've been a teacher at St Rita's College, Clayfield. I love the variety and creativity and being able to use my industry knowledge and experience from my previous career to add depth and authenticity to my subject areas.

My lanyard design was inspired by the Brisbane River being at the heart of the city and reaching out to every part of Brisbane. It represents the energy and life of this growing city that we love. It's symbolic of being drawn to our vocation and the energy that we put into teaching in our attempt to reach all students. As teachers we give our Heart and Soul."

The QCT would like to thank Ruby Olive for their generous support.



A message from our TEACHX sponsor: TUH



TUH Executive Manager Member Experience, Cathy McGuane (far right), presenting an Excellence in Beginning to Teach Award in 2023.

TUH a trusted partner of QCT

As proud allies of the QCT, [TUH](#) is committed to empowering the extraordinary efforts of Queensland's education community, in shaping the future generation.

One of the hallmarks of this collaboration is our commitment to initiatives that support and recognise the efforts of the education community. For over a decade, TUH has proudly sponsored the [TEACHX Awards](#), which honour and recognise the remarkable contributions of educators across our state.

This partnership has allowed us to witness firsthand the dedication and passion of our teachers and the transformative influence they have in the communities they serve.

As advocates for educational excellence, we take immense pride in our role as champions of the 'Dr Roger Hunter, OAM Excellence in Beginning to Teach Award'. This prestigious accolade is a tribute to educators who exemplify exceptional pedagogical practices and foster connections with their students within their first four years of teaching.

For over 50 years, we have been looking after the health and well-being of our teachers, the education community, and their families. As a member-owned and not-for-profit health fund, our focus at TUH goes beyond providing health insurance. We are driven by our commitment to excellence, curiosity, and the pursuit of innovation.

Sponsor advertisement: TUH Health Fund

A teal banner for TUH Health Fund. On the left, white text reads "Award winning health cover at every age and stage." Below this is a button that says "Click here for more information" with a cursor icon. Further down, smaller text states "TUH Health Fund voted Australia's Private Health Insurer of the Year in the Roy Morgan Customer Satisfaction Awards, announced in September 2022." Below that, it says "There for our teachers and education community at every age and stage." and "1300 360 701 | tuh.com.au". On the right, there is a framed award certificate that reads "CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AWARDS PRIVATE HEALTH INSURER OF THE YEAR ROY MORGAN 2022". The TUH Health Fund logo is at the bottom right.

Sponsor advertisement: Griffith University

A red and white banner for Griffith University. On the left, the Griffith University logo is vertical. The main text reads "Enrich your teaching career" in red. Below this, it says "Boost your skills in leadership and inclusive education. Unlock your career potential with subsidised places and up to 80% discount on postgraduate degrees." and "Find out more" in red. On the right, there is a photograph of a young woman smiling, with the text "Make it matter" in red at the bottom right.

