All qualified early childhood teachers who are employed or engaged as an early childhood teacher in a Victorian education and care service or a Victorian children’s service need to be registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching from 30 September 2015. Please note the Institute will not be accepting applications for early childhood teacher registration until July 2015.

Welcome to our sixth circular on early childhood teacher registration. This circular contains important information about:

- the benefits of registration
- registering under the transitional arrangements
- overseas criminal record checks

The benefits of registration

A registered early childhood teacher is a professional who is:

- Qualified - in order to be registered, early childhood teachers have provided the Institute with evidence that they are a fully qualified early childhood teacher

  Employers will not have to seek evidence that a registered early childhood teacher is qualified.

- Suitable to be a teacher – registration checks on fitness to teach and suitability ensure that early childhood teachers are appropriate people to teach.

  Employers and parents know the suitability of a teacher has been assessed when a person is registered as an early childhood teacher

- Exempt from a working with children's check - registered early childhood teachers must have a current national police history check and are checked against the Victorian Police database once a week. The rigorous nature of these checks means registered early childhood teachers are exempt from also having a Working With Children Check.
Employers will no longer require registered early childhood teachers to have a current working with children check.

Registering under the transitional arrangements

Transitional arrangements seek to bring the current early childhood teacher workforce on to the Teacher Register in the most streamlined way.

All early childhood teachers who register under the transitional arrangements will pay a reduced registration fee (around $91), gain registration without being provisionally registered and will not be required to demonstrate English language competence.

To register under the transitional arrangements, early childhood teachers need to provide evidence of having worked or volunteered in the role of an early childhood teacher between 01 October 2013 and 30 September 2015.

This evidence can be a statement of service, a formal letter from a cluster manager or employer or other evidence (not a statutory declaration). A suggested template for a formal letter is published on our website.

Overseas criminal record check

If you have resided in any country other than Australia for a continuous period of 12 months or more within the last 10 years, and were 18 years of age or older at that time, you must provide certified copies of the original criminal record checks from each country in which you resided when you apply for registration.

Note: If you have been granted Australian permanent residency or citizenship since living overseas, you will not be required to provide an overseas criminal record check.

Information seminars

Information seminars about early childhood teacher registration will be held during May and June from 5:30pm in metropolitan and regional locations.

These seminars will help to ensure that you fully understand the requirements for registration, and give you the opportunity to meet Institute staff and ask questions. Even if you are not currently working as an early childhood teacher but intend to do so in the future, we recommend you attend.

Seminar dates and locations

A number of seminars have been held during May, but there are still places in the seminars to be held in June. To reserve your place now, register online here

How do I find out more?

Further information about registration as an early childhood teacher is available on the Institute website, including frequently asked questions.

Anyone who submits an intent to register form will also receive these email circulars as they are published.
What do I need to do?

The Institute is not accepting applications at this stage. You will be notified when the application process is open.

This information is intended for early childhood providers, services and teachers. If you are a provider or service who does not employ early childhood teachers and do not wish to receive this circular, please notify us by email on Early.Childhood@vit.vic.edu.au and we will remove you from our distribution list.

Thank you for reading this circular and welcome to the profession. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Kind Regards

MELANIE SABA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF TEACHING