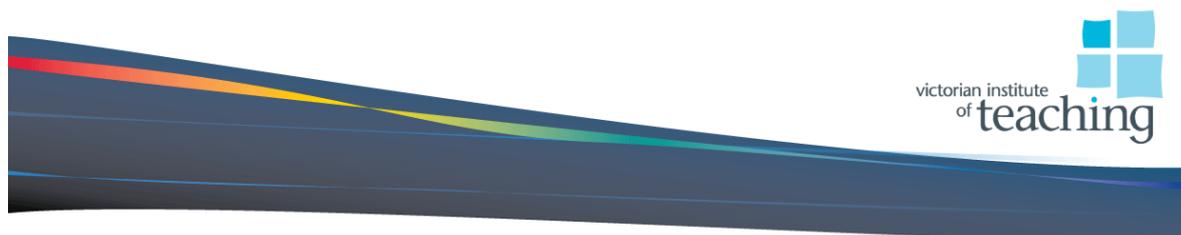


From: Victorian Institute of Teaching [mailto:no-reply@vit.vic.edu.au]

Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2016 4:30 PM

Subject: Message from the Chairperson 1/2016 – **Early childhood teacher registration**



24 March 2016

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

A message from Victorian Institute of Teaching Chairperson Don Paproth

Dear Manager/Director

Many registered early childhood teachers in your service who renew their registration in September 2016 recently received an email from us. This communication explained that as part of renewal of registration they need to undertake PD related to the teaching of learners with special needs (disability).

Our call centre immediately received calls from teachers who sometimes believed that those at the VIT had just found another way to make life difficult. This however, is far from the truth and on reflection most callers conceded that this is an area of professional need for many teachers.

The Victorian Government has made a strong commitment to improving participation in learning for learners with special needs (disabilities). To this end a VIT reference group including representatives from employer and principal associations, early childhood and school sectors, parent groups and education unions has been meeting for some time to provide feedback on the development of information and resources to help teachers achieve this worthwhile aim.

Teachers have a responsibility to ensure they can improve educational outcomes for all learners, including those with a disability. The best way to this is through professional development that will build knowledge and practice. This can be reported on by teachers when they undertake their annual renewal of registration.

It's important that your early childhood teachers understand that the special needs component will be PART OF the 20 hours requirement, not in addition to it. Teachers have up to 30 September 2017 to meet the requirement and that will give time for meaningful and ongoing professional learning and implementation in practice. Please also be aware of the following:

- Renewing teachers will be asked to identify any special needs PD they have undertaken in the previous 2 years when they complete their renewal of registration application in September 2016.
- If they answer 'no' to this question then they must complete their special needs

PD by 30 September 2017 to meet renewal registration requirements.

- PD in Special Needs is part of the annual 20 hours requirement to renew registration. There is no set number of hours of special needs PD required because each teacher's professional learning needs will be different depending upon teaching context and prior learning.
- Information about relevant PD activities that may be of interest to registered teachers, including specific information for early childhood teachers, can be found on the websites of the VIT and Department of Education and Training.
- The listing of PD activities on the VIT website does not mean a teacher must select from these activities. All teachers have the flexibility to select any PD that meets their individual and collective professional learning needs as long as it addresses standards descriptor 1.6 of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers: *Teachers design and implement teaching activities that support the learning and participation of learners with disability and address relevant policy and legislative requirements.*
- The VIT is aware that many educational leaders may support or require PD in special needs as part of a strategic plan or as part of a teacher's professional learning plan. Such PD could be used by a teacher to meet their renewal of registration requirements.
- Provisionally registered early childhood teachers do not have the same PD requirement. They will address the development of their capability to teach learners with a disability when they undertake the evidence-based process to achieve 'full' early childhood teacher registration. They will address the Proficient Teacher level of the standards through their evidence of learning of those they teach with a disability.

The fact is; this is a worthwhile idea that we should all embrace. There are no losers in this.

You can find more information about the Special Needs requirements, including FAQs on the [VIT website](#).

If you have any concerns about this, or any other matter please don't hesitate to contact me on 86016120 or email at Donald.Paproth@vit.vic.edu.au

Kind regards



Don Paproth
Chairperson

Please do not respond to this email, as it has been sent by an automated service.