Qualification for teacher registration - National literacy and numeracy test policy

1. Purpose
   1.1. To introduce into the standards of professional practice required for registration personal literacy and numeracy standards for persons seeking teacher registration.

2. Background
   2.1. In 2015 all Australian State and Territory Education Ministers agreed that, from 1 July 2016, the national Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education Students (the test) will be used as the required means to demonstrate that initial teacher education students are in the top 30 per cent of the population for personal literacy and numeracy.
   2.2. The Victorian Minister for Education has determined that the agreement will be implemented in Victoria as follows:
      a) From 1 January 2017 the inclusion of the test is an accreditation requirement for all Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programs offered by Victorian Higher Education Institutions.
      b) As an interim measure, a person currently enrolled in an ITE program accredited by the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) and offered by a Victorian Higher Education Institute (student) which does not contain the test must successfully complete the test to qualify for provisional teacher registration in Victoria.

3. Scope
   3.1. This Policy applies to all students who complete an (ITE) program in Victoria on or after 1 July 2016.
   3.2. On or after 1 July 2016 a student must successfully complete the test to qualify for provisional teacher registration.
   3.3. This Policy also applies to:
      a) students who complete an ITE pathway program in Victoria and who are granted (full) registration; and
      b) students who complete an ITE program in Victoria and who already hold Early Childhood Teacher registration.
   3.4. This Policy does not apply to an application for provisional early childhood teacher registration.

4. Recognised Literacy and Numeracy Tests
   4.1. The test is one of the following:
      a) National Literacy and Numeracy Initial Teacher Education Students Test; or
      b) NSW Literacy and Numeracy for Classroom Readiness Test; or
      c) ACT Canberra Teacher Recruitment Assessment; or
      d) The 2015 August/September trial of the National Literacy and Numeracy Test.

5. Exceptional Circumstances
   5.1. In exceptional circumstances, the VIT may grant provisional or (full) registration to a student who has not successfully completed the test subject to the following condition: It is a condition of registration that the applicant successfully completes the test within 6 months of registration being granted.
5.2. Exceptional circumstances may include situations where:
   a) A student was registered to undertake the test but due to a medical condition or family circumstances was not able to sit the test on the date registered; or
   b) A student did not successfully complete one or both components of the test and is unable to register to re-sit the test until after the VIT had received their evidence of completion for their initial teacher education program.

5.3. The VIT may request supporting evidence from the student in support for an application that exceptional circumstances apply.

5.4. If a student is granted provisional or (full) teacher registration in exceptional circumstances the student must meet the condition imposed within the specified time period.

6. Exemptions

6.1. The VIT will consider an exemption from sitting the test for students with a disability or health issue and only when Australian Council of Education Research (ACER) is not able to provide the test.

6.2. The VIT may request supporting evidence from the student or teacher in support for the exemption.

6.3. The VIT may impose a condition on the registration of the teacher.

7. Non-compliance with the condition

7.1. Where a teacher does not meet the condition imposed as per 5.4 above, the VIT will consider each matter on an individual basis.

7.2. The VIT may:
   a) Impose the condition for a further 6-month period; or
   b) Impose an alternative condition; or
   c) Refer the matter to an informal or formal hearing panel to determine the matter.

8. Eligibility for (full) registration

8.1. A provisionally registered teacher with the literacy and numeracy condition is not eligible for (full) registration as they have not met the standards of professional practice required.

9. Costs

9.1. The cost of the test is the responsibility of the student.