Supporting Provisionally Registered Teachers

A guide to the (full) registration process

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About the Victorian Institute of Teaching

The Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) regulates the teaching profession in Victoria.

VIT is an independent statutory authority reporting to the Victorian Minister for Education. Registration by VIT provides assurance to the public that teachers are qualified, suitable to teach, and meet and maintain standards of professional practice and conduct.

Registration recognises the expertise of teachers, and protects the profession’s high standards of practice and conduct. Registered teachers are expected to take responsibility for their professional behaviour and their professional practice, including the maintenance of their teacher registration.

What is (full) registration?

If you teach in Victorian schools and / or early childhood education and care services, you must be registered with VIT.

As a recently registered teacher or early childhood teacher, you are provisionally registered for up to two years. To be eligible to change your registration status to registered teacher or registered early childhood teacher, you must make an application to VIT for (full) registration.

To do this you need to

- teach for at least 80 days as a registered teacher in Australian or New Zealand schools or early childhood services; and
- meet the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers at the Proficient Teacher level. This is done through an inquiry approach undertaken in the education setting where you teach.

The inquiry approach is designed to synchronise with workplace induction; it requires you to work with more experienced colleagues who have been trained as mentors. Opportunities are provided for collegial practice and professional observation that supports you to reflect on the effectiveness of your practice in relation to your learners.

VIT works in partnership with the Department of Education and Training, and is supported by the Catholic Education Offices and Independent Schools Victoria to train teaching colleagues who will mentor you during this time.

How to use this guide

This guide

- explains the inquiry into your practice you will undertake and other requirements to evidence the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST) at the Proficient Teacher level
- describes the process for applying to VIT for (full) registration
- provides advice for gathering your evidence
- identifies what you should document as evidence
- provides checklists to ensure you have everything required to make an application
- provides a template where you can insert your evidence.

This guide can also be used by those who mentor and support you, either within or outside your workplace.
Moving from provisional to (full) registration

You can complete your 80 days’ teaching in one or more Australian or New Zealand schools or early childhood services at any time within the two year period you are granted provisional registration.

You’ll also need to arrange for a workplace panel to assess your evidence. Your mentor can assist you with this.

Once you’ve successfully gathered your evidence, you’ll need to apply for (full) registration. Continue to page 21 for a quick step by step guide.

You’ll supply each panel member with a copy of your evidence so they can consider it before your meeting.

You’ll then have a meeting with the recommendation panel and present your evidence.

The panel will consider your evidence and reach a consensus on whether you have met the standards and their descriptors. You’ll then be advised of the outcome.

Where all requirements have been met, VIT will grant you (full) registration. This means that you have attained the proficient teacher level of the APST. Once your registration is approved, you’ll be sent a new registration card.

Provisionally registered teacher

You’ll need to complete 80 days of teaching before you can apply for (full) registration.

While you develop your teaching practice, you’ll also need to gather evidence that you meet the APST to a proficient level.

To gather evidence - you’ll use an Inquiry Approach. This requires you to address the learning needs of those you teach and to investigate the effectiveness of your practice.

You’ll be supported through the process by a mentor / experienced colleague. They’ll observe your practice at least three times and give you feedback.

You’ll meet with your mentor for at least two professional discussions about your practice. You’ll also observe at least one other teacher’s practice.

VIT will assess your application. You may be selected for audit. If you are audited, you will need to submit your evidence to VIT.

(Fully) registered teacher or early childhood teacher

The principal / panel chair will complete a recommendation report. You’ll review the report and submit it to VIT.

As a provisionally registered teacher (PRT), you are granted a two year period with the expectation you will be able to successfully meet the requirements and apply for (full) registration.
1. HOW TO ACHIEVE TEACHER REGISTRATION

Ethics, professionalism and accountability

Teachers not only have a responsibility for young people’s learning but must also implement curriculum and legislative requirements relating to the wellbeing and safety of learners within the learning environment. This includes a responsibility to ensure information and communication technology (ICT) is being used safely, ethically and responsibly in teaching and learning.

Being able to respond effectively to young people whose safety and wellbeing may be at risk, or who are in need of protection, is therefore an essential part of professional teaching practice. This requires teachers to understand the implications of - and comply with - relevant legislative, administrative and organisational policies and processes.

Registered teachers must also adhere to the principles of the Victorian Teaching Profession Codes of Conduct and Ethics. In managing their interactions with learners, teachers must always establish appropriate relationships and maintain professional boundaries with their learners.

In support of an application for (full) registration, VIT requires you to provide evidence of your competence against Standards 4.4, 4.5, 7.1 and 7.2 by providing to your workplace recommendation panel:

• a brief report that provides at least two examples of how your legal obligations in relation to child safety and welfare have been implemented in your workplace while making reference to any relevant workplace policies,

• evidence of a professional conversation based on the above report; and

• a brief report reflecting on your how you establish appropriate relationships and maintain professional boundaries with your learners.

Standards of professional practice

Standards define the professional knowledge and practice of teachers. The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST) are used by Victorian teachers and early childhood teachers to develop and maintain their practice, and are common throughout Australia. They comprise seven standards with 37 areas of focus and their descriptors.

There are two mandatory levels of professional practice that define the expectations for registered teachers at different levels of capability – Graduate Teacher and Proficient Teacher.

The APST are met at the Graduate Teacher level when you complete an approved initial teacher education program. Provisional registration is then granted when you register because you have not yet met the APST at the Proficient Teacher level.

When you meet the Proficient Teacher level of the APST you are granted (full) registration. From this time, you will undertake a process of annual renewal of registration that confirms you’ve maintained the standards at the Proficient Teacher level.

Inherent in the standards is the expectation that you will uphold the Codes of Conduct and Ethics. This recognises your unique position of trust and influence, and how this shapes your relationships with learners, parents / carers, colleagues and community members.

Further information about the standards can be found on the AITSL website.
## Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST)

### STANDARDS AT THE PROFICIENT TEACHER LEVEL

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<th>PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE</th>
<th>PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Know learners and how they learn</td>
<td>Plan for and implement effective teaching and learning</td>
<td>Engage in professional learning</td>
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<td>Know the content and how to teach it</td>
<td>Create and maintain supportive and safe learning environments</td>
<td>Engage professionally with colleagues, parents/ carers and community</td>
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<td>1.1 Physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of learners</td>
<td>3.1 Establish challenging learning goals</td>
<td>5.1 Assess learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use teaching strategies based on knowledge of learners’ physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics to improve their learning</td>
<td>Set explicit, challenging and achievable learning goals for all learners</td>
<td>Develop, select and use informal and formal, diagnostic, formative and summative assessment strategies to assess learning</td>
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<td>1.2 Understand how learners learn</td>
<td>4.1 Support participation of learners</td>
<td>5.2 Provide feedback to learners about their learning</td>
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<td>Structure teaching programs using research and collegial advice about learning</td>
<td>Establish and implement inclusive and positive interactions to engage and support all learners in learning activities</td>
<td>Provide timely, effective and appropriate feedback to learners about their achievement relative to their learning goals</td>
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<td>Design and implement teaching strategies that are responsive to learners’ strengths and needs of learners from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds</td>
<td>Establish and maintain orderly and workable routines to create an environment where time is spent on learning tasks</td>
<td>Understand and participate in assessment moderation activities to support consistent and comparable judgements of learning</td>
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<td>1.4 Strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners</td>
<td>4.3 Manage challenging behaviour</td>
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<td>Design and implement effective teaching strategies that are responsive to the local community and cultural setting, linguistic background and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners</td>
<td>Manage challenging behaviour by establishing and negotiating clear expectations with learners and address issues promptly, fairly and respectfully</td>
<td>Use assessment data from learners to analyse and evaluate understanding of content, identifying interventions and modifying teaching practice</td>
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<td>1.5 Differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of learners across the full range of abilities</td>
<td>4.4 Maintain safety of learners</td>
<td>5.5 Report on achievement of learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop teaching activities that incorporate differentiated strategies to meet the specific learning needs of learners across the full range of abilities</td>
<td>Ensure the wellbeing and safety of learners within the learning environment by implementing curriculum and legislative requirements</td>
<td>Report clearly, accurately and respectfully to learners and parents/ carers about achievement, making use of accurate and reliable records</td>
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<td>1.6 Strategies to support full participation of learners with disability</td>
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<td>Design and implement teaching activities that support the learning and participation of learners with disability and address relevant policy and legislative requirements</td>
<td>Incorporate strategies to promote the safe, responsible and ethical use of ICT in learning and teaching</td>
<td>Use the APST and advice from colleagues to identify and plan professional learning needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Content and teaching strategies of the teaching area(s)</td>
<td>4.6 Assess and improve teaching programs</td>
<td>6.2 Engage in professional learning and improve practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply knowledge of content and teaching strategies of the teaching area(s) to develop engaging teaching activities</td>
<td>Evaluate personal teaching and learning programs using evidence, including feedback and assessment data from learners, to inform planning</td>
<td>Participate in learning to update knowledge and practice, targeted to professional needs and priorities of the education setting or system</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2 Content selection and organisation</td>
<td>4.7 Plan for appropriate and contextually relevant opportunities for parents/ carers to be involved in their children’s learning</td>
<td>7.1 Meet professional ethics and responsibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organise content into coherent, well-sequenced learning and teaching programs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet codes of ethics and conduct established by regulatory authorities, systems and education settings</td>
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<td>2.3 Curriculum, assessment and reporting</td>
<td>4.8 Participate in collegial discussions and use constructive feedback from colleagues to improve professional knowledge and practice</td>
<td>7.2 Comply with legislative, administrative and organisational requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design and implement learning and teaching programs using knowledge of curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td>Understand the implications of, and comply with, relevant legislative, administrative, organisational and professional requirements, policies and processes</td>
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<td>2.4 Understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians</td>
<td>4.9 Engage with parents/ carers</td>
<td>7.3 Engage with parents/ carers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide opportunities for learners to develop understanding of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages</td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish and maintain respectful collaborative relationships with parents/ carers regarding their children’s learning and wellbeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5 Literacy and numeracy strategies</td>
<td>4.10 Evaluate and improve learning (of learners)</td>
<td>7.4 Engage with professional teaching networks and broader communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply knowledge and understanding of effective teaching strategies to support learners’ literacy and numeracy achievement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Participate in professional and community networks and forums to broaden knowledge and improve practice</td>
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<td>2.6 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)</td>
<td>4.11 Comply with policies and processes.</td>
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Provisional registration

Provisional registration provides a period of time to demonstrate your successful application of the APST in teaching situations where you are responsible for the learning of those you teach. During this time, you need to be inducted into teaching and have opportunities to work with experienced colleagues who can provide you with professional observation and feedback on your teaching practice.

During the period of provisional registration, you must also be able to demonstrate the ethical standards of conduct and practice necessary for establishing your ongoing fitness to teach in a school or early childhood service. This includes your ability to demonstrate appropriate professional boundaries with learners.

Significant changes in child protection standards and other legal requirements relating to child safety and welfare mean that teachers must now, more than ever before, be competent in understanding their ethical, legal and professional responsibilities. These obligations are enshrined in the APST, and you must provide specific evidence of competence against these standards when making an application for (full) registration.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR (FULL) REGISTRATION**

To be eligible to apply for (full) registration you must

• teach for at least 80 days as a registered teacher
• demonstrate the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST) at the Proficient Teacher level using evidence gathered through the inquiry approach that is undertaken in the education setting where you teach.

**THE PROCESS TO EVIDENCE THE STANDARDS**

The process required by VIT and described in this guide is designed to address the APST descriptors at the Proficient Teacher level. This occurs through an inquiry into practice. It provides an opportunity for you to focus on an aspect of your teaching, to document evidence of your teaching work, and to reflect on your learning as a practitioner and the effectiveness of your practice. You will also show how you provide an inclusive teaching environment for all learners.

Evidence of professional practice can be developed across a number of groups of learners, and is relevant for a range of different education settings where pre-school and school age children and young adults are taught.

**THE RECOMMENDATION PROCESS**

Once your evidence of practice is complete you will present it to a workplace panel.

It is expected in a school setting the panel comprises

• your principal (or their delegate), who assumes the role of panel chair
• a registered teacher who has participated in the VIT (EMP or other) mentor training program
• a registered teaching colleague you nominate and who knows your work.

It is expected in an early childhood setting the panel comprises

• a registered early childhood teacher
• a registered early childhood teacher or registered teacher who has participated in the VIT (EMP or other) mentor training program
• another registered early childhood teacher or teacher colleague you nominate and who knows your work.

In an early childhood setting any panel member can assume the role of panel chair.

The workplace panel assesses your documented evidence of practice and makes a determination whether you have met the standards and their descriptors at the Proficient Teacher level. They then complete a recommendation report.

The recommendation report can be used in your application for teacher or early childhood teacher registration when the panel identifies all descriptors of the seven standards have been met at the Proficient Teacher level.

Variations to the panel composition can be sought from VIT when there are exceptional circumstances.

More information regarding the workplace recommendation panel can be found on the [VIT website](https://www.vit.vic.edu.au).
APPLYING FOR (FULL) REGISTRATION

You should apply for teacher registration or early childhood teacher registration prior to the expiry of your two-year grant of provisional registration. To be eligible for (full) registration, you need to have taught for at least 80 days as a registered teacher in Australia or New Zealand and be able to provide a satisfactory recommendation report from your workplace panel.

You need to ensure that, if requested, you can provide to VIT a copy of the evidence of practice you compiled as the basis of the workplace recommendation.

VIT will assess your application for (full) registration when all requirements are provided. When VIT is satisfied you have met the standards at the Proficient Teacher level, your registration status will no longer be provisional and you will be granted a change of registration status to teacher registration or early childhood teacher registration.

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**Provisionally registered teacher**

- Complete 80 days of VIT recognised teaching
- Gather evidence of professional practice using inquiry approach
- Establish content and context for learning
- Define question for inquiry and undertake professional learning
- Apply knowledge to teaching practice through action plan
- Present evidence to recommendation panel
- Submit application form and recommendation report

**Inquiry Approach**

1. Achieving registration
2. Gathering evidence
3. Applying for registration
4. Professional practice
5. Further information
6. References
2. HOW TO GATHER AND DOCUMENT EVIDENCE

Evidence of professional practice for (full) registration

OVERVIEW
When you engage in an analysis of the effectiveness of your practice, you develop your capacity as a teacher.

A cycle of reflective practice requires you to make assessments about what your learners need to know and do. This informs what you then need to learn to bring about improvement in learning outcomes for those you teach. New knowledge can be applied and evaluated to determine its impact on learning and to assess the effectiveness of your teaching practice.

PROVIDING EVIDENCE THROUGH AN INQUIRY APPROACH
VIT requires you to take an inquiry approach to developing your practice and evidence the Proficient Teacher standards. Helen Timperley’s cycle of teacher inquiry and knowledge-building is used as a model for this.

You will address the learning of those you teach by investigating the effectiveness of your practice and deepening your knowledge in specific areas of teaching and learning.

A supportive education setting where you are mentored by experienced colleagues provides the best opportunity for the development of your practice. It allows you to test new learning in an environment where you can engage in professional conversations with colleagues who can give feedback and advice to assist successful outcomes.

CASUAL RELIEF TEACHERS AND TEACHERS IN NON-SCHOOL SETTINGS
For teacher registration purposes, an education setting is an early childhood education service, primary, secondary, P-12 or special education school. VIT recognises the important role of CRTs in enabling Victorian education settings to provide continuity of quality learning opportunities. VIT also recognises the important role in non-school settings in providing specialist and unique learning opportunities for Victorian learners. The process for moving to (full) registration is the same for all teachers regardless of their employment context.

If you are working as a CRT or in a non-school setting, the Companion guide for PRT CRTs provides more information about how you can use this practice to move to full registration. You must contact VIT to verify whether you can use the practice at a non-school setting before commencing the process.

The inquiry process

The inquiry process requires you to

• select a class or group of learners and assess the level of learning and factors affecting their learning
• determine what these learners already know and what they need to know to expand their learning
• identify learning outcomes that are challenging and achievable for learners
• develop a theme or question for inquiry
• deepen your own professional knowledge to respond to the identified area of inquiry
• use this new knowledge to establish and implement an action plan to improve learning
• assess the learning outcomes
• reflect on the effectiveness of your practice and the implications of this for future practice and professional learning.
Gathering evidence for (full) registration – timeline

You will need to identify the learning needs of those you teach, establish an area of focus and undertake professional learning to address these needs over an extended period of time. Once you have done this, you should implement and evaluate your action plan over a period of about 4 – 6 weeks.

There needs to be sufficient time for implementation of your action plan and assessment of learning in relation to the learners identified. The amount of time for the gathering of evidence through the inquiry approach will depend upon your working arrangements and how often you teach your learners.

A template is provided to assist in the documentation of evidence to demonstrate the Proficient Teacher standards. It is not mandatory to use the template; you may prefer to use other methods of documentation. No matter how they are documented, all components of the evidence must be addressed.

The activities you have been asked to undertake have been mapped against the Proficient Teacher descriptors. By documenting these activities, you will build evidence to meet the standards at the Proficient Teacher level.

The activities you undertake will need to be responsive to the safety and wellbeing of your learners. In the context of the Child Safe Standards and The Reportable Conduct Scheme, teachers and early childhood teachers must inform themselves of the relevant processes within their setting. When addressing the descriptors that apply to the wellbeing of learners, you will need to reference an understanding of these processes.

Investigating learning

THE INQUIRY APPROACH

The diagram below is based on Helen Timperley’s cycle of teacher inquiry and knowledge building. It provides guidance on how you can gather evidence of your practice and assess the effectiveness of your practice to improve learning.
1. Context and content for learning

Before beginning your inquiry, spend some time getting to know your learners, their knowledge, skills and strengths and factors affecting learning. You will also need to consider whether the context in which you are teaching provides any limitations or challenges to that learning and how any policies, strategic directions or legislative requirements (e.g. Child Safe Standards) will affect your practice or the learning of those you teach.

During this process, you will identify the areas of your own practice that need to be developed to support learning.

1A. YOUR LEARNERS

Select a group of learners.

Select the individuals whose learning you want to develop further. Your inquiry can focus on one or more groups within a larger cohort of learners. If teaching individuals or small groups, they will all become your selected group. Give reasons for your choice.

The following questions may help with your selection

• Which learners are where I think they should be? How do I know?
• Which learners are not performing at the level I expect? How do I know?

LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Within your group of selected learners or in the larger cohort of learners, you must identify at least one with disability that requires you to modify your practice to address their additional learning needs. For more information, please refer to our Learners with special needs resources guide.

1B. THE LEARNING CONTEXT

• What is the range of learning levels in your group of learners?
• Consider their learning levels in relation to the learning that is to occur. Explain how you have made these judgements.
• What are the factors affecting the learning of those you’ve selected for inquiry?
• Do the linguistic, socioeconomic or religious characteristics of your learners require you to adapt your teaching to support their engagement with the content you are teaching? How will you do this?
• Do the cultural backgrounds of your learners, including Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander learners, require you to adapt your teaching to support their engagement with the content you are teaching? How will you do this?
• What are the factors affecting learning for the learners with disability you have selected?
• What do you know about the level of learning and prior knowledge of the learners with disability you have selected?
• What modifications to the physical environment, learning plan or the content will you have to make so the learning is accessible to these learners?
• How will you make sure they can be included in activities and participate in learning?

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EVIDENCE

You should include the following information about the learners:

• why you selected them and who has disability (and what it is)
• their learning levels and how you know this
• their learning characteristics and how that impacts your teaching and the way they learn
• their socioeconomic, religious, linguistic and cultural background and any impact of this on their learning
• how you will make adjustments to ensure the learning is accessible to learners with disability so they can participate in learning activities
• how you are ensuring the safety and wellbeing of your learners.
1C. CONTENT FOR THE PROGRAM OF LEARNING
Provide documentation about what you will be teaching for a program of learning that will span 4–6 weeks. If you see your learners less frequently, the learning may take place over a longer period of time. Ask yourself: ‘What knowledge and skills do my learners need?’. Indicate where this content is placed within the wider curriculum or level of expected development of your learners.

Where relevant, show how the content you are teaching
• addresses development of the literacy and / or numeracy of your learners
• provides opportunities for learners to develop understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages
• uses information and communication technologies (ICT) safely, responsibly and ethically.

TIPS: TEACHING CONTENT AND PROGRAM OF TEACHING
The program of teaching you select should be long enough to provide time for learners to demonstrate learning, but not so long that the documentation is onerous. Your plan should be long enough so that there is sufficient time for learners to demonstrate learning in relation to the inquiry question.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EVIDENCE
• your program of learning – could be existing or new
• how the program links to the broader curriculum / framework
• what outcomes you expect learners to achieve
• annotate the program documentation to show how you
  • promote understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages
  • develop literacy / numeracy
  • address access to, and participation in, learning for those with disability
  • incorporate ICT into learning - ensuring safe, responsible and ethical use
  • incorporate the wellbeing and safety of learners within the learning environment.

1D. WHAT DO YOUR LEARNERS ALREADY KNOW?
Assessment of prior knowledge of your learners will allow you to effectively plan for activities that will engage your learners in the next level of learning.

How have you established the content of your program of learning to scaffold the prior knowledge of your learners? What can they do well? What areas need development?

Professional discussions with your mentor / other colleagues and the opportunity for your mentor to work with you in your learning environment will allow you to share observations about the current levels of learning for those learners you are investigating. Use this data and other information you may have to consider learning outcomes that further develop what your learners already know and are able to do.

These conversations can be via email, skype or telephone where face-to-face access to a mentor is not possible.

TIPS: ASSESSING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE
Ways to assess prior learning / knowledge could include
• questioning
• pre-testing
• using data from previous reports and assessments
• talking to teachers who have taught your learners
• running records
• learning environment observation of learners
• tools such as KWL, mind maps, De Bono Thinking Hats.
1E. THE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Using the content of your program of learning and the prior knowledge of your learners, establish the learning outcomes. These should be achievable but also able to challenge learners. The learning outcomes may vary depending upon the learning characteristics of your learners.

List the learning outcomes for your learners.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EVIDENCE

- prior knowledge of learners
- the learners who are your focus and the factors affecting their learning
- any additional learning needs of individuals, including those with disability
- the teaching content for your program of learning
- expected learning outcomes
- how outcomes build / expand on prior knowledge
- how outcomes are achievable and challenging for learners
- identification of learners who need to be extended or given particular support and what you will do for them
- how you will provide access to, and participation in, learning activities for those with disability.

2. The inquiry question

2A. IDENTIFYING YOUR INQUIRY QUESTION

Understanding the backgrounds and levels of learning of those you teach helps you understand the challenges in ensuring all learners achieve the outcomes for a program of learning. You need to identify the aspect of teaching and learning you want to develop to maximise learning.

A question to ask that may assist with your thinking is: ‘Based on the needs of my learners, what do I need to know and do differently in my teaching practice to progress their learning?’

This can be framed as a question for inquiry. The following examples may help you do this.

- How can I cater for the diversity of learning needs I am encountering?
- How can I effectively provide feedback to ensure learners are focusing on written feedback rather than numerical scores?
- By what method can I manage the emotional wellbeing of learners during play to ensure learning occurs?
- What resources, and their application, would enable me to scaffold learner’s higher order thinking and problem solving?
- Through which aspects of learning and play can I extend problem solving?
- Will using technology encourage learners to take control of their own learning?
- How would encouraging learners to self-assess and reflect on their learning enable them to take control of their own learning?
- Will the use of high order questioning deepen levels of learner understanding?
- Does group work and discussion help learners develop a deeper understanding and overcome misconceptions?

It is important the inquiry question you identify is manageable within the timeframe of the program of learning. Therefore, you may not be able to address all the aspects of teaching and learning you face, and may develop only one aspect of your teaching practice and the learning of those you are focusing on.

Discussing your inquiry question with your mentor / experienced colleague may assist in refining your understanding of the inquiry and framing your approach. This, in turn, may enable the targeting of any professional learning you require to support effective practice. This is the next step in the inquiry.
2B. YOUR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
Teachers need to identify their own learning needs to ensure they are effective in addressing learners’ needs.
Questions to ask include
• What do I already know?
• What do I need to learn?
• How will I access this new knowledge?
• What resources can be utilised?

Using the APST descriptors at the Proficient Teacher level can assist you to identify areas for professional learning that will help you address your inquiry.

WORKING WITH COLLEAGUES IN YOUR EDUCATION SETTING
There is much you can learn from your mentor / experienced colleague, both in and out of your workplace. This can occur through professional discussions that explicitly address your inquiry question. Observing the practice of your mentor / experienced colleague can develop your knowledge about content and / or practice in relation to your question for inquiry.

Undertake at least one observation of your mentor / experienced colleague when they are teaching.

TIPS: OBSERVING EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES
Ensure you have a focus for your observation that relates to your inquiry question.
Questions to focus your observation could include
• How does the teacher deal with difficult situations?
• How does the teacher address diversity in learning needs?
• What does the teacher do that engages the learners?
• How does the teacher present knowledge, skills and ideas?
• What sort of resources does the teacher use and how do the learners react to them?
• How does the teacher provide feedback to learners?
• How is the teacher inclusive, supportive and professional in their interactions with learners?
• How does the teacher maintain safety in the education setting and address the welfare of all learners?

In the learning environment
• think about what you see and hear
• consider how the teacher caters for the wellbeing of all learners.

Engage in professional conversations with your mentor / experienced colleague.
You need to undertake and document at least two of these.
One of these can be associated with an observation of your colleague teaching or they can be quite separate conversations where you discuss your approach to your inquiry.
As part of your inquiry into practice you need to consider how you support learners with disability.
Your professional development may need to build knowledge in relation to the specific disability of your learner(s). It should also consider learning that will support you to develop an inclusive environment where learners with disability are able to participate in activities.
Any PD you undertake that addresses the learning needs of those with disability will also assist you to develop knowledge and practices that will support the learning of everyone you teach.
2C. CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE
You are responsible for the wellbeing and safety of the learners you teach.

Ensure you are familiar with legislative requirements (such as mandatory reporting, child safe standards and what reportable conduct means in Victoria).

Are any of your learners considered to be ‘at risk’? If so, discuss with your mentor or other responsible leaders how you can minimise risk and support the learning of these young people.

In support of your application for (full) registration, you must provide evidence of your competence against Standards 4.4, 4.5, 7.1 and 7.2.

Describe an overview of your legal obligations in relation to child safety and welfare. Provide at least two examples of how you have implemented your legal obligations in your workplace, making reference to any relevant workplace policies.

Use this report as the basis for discussion of how you will maintain the welfare and safety of those you are teaching. Include your report and record of discussion in your evidence.

TIPS: DEMONSTRATING LEGAL OBLIGATIONS
The following are examples of legal obligations:
• mandatory reporting
• child safe standards
• reportable conduct scheme
• duty of care
• equal opportunity obligations

You will need to explain how you have demonstrated these legal obligations, including information about workplace policies / procedures such as:
• child safety
• student attendance
• student supervision
• excursion and camps
• managing health issues
• safe use of internet and social media

OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
If relevant to your inquiry question, link into professional development activities that may be occurring in your education setting. You can also expand your knowledge by undertaking professional reading that relates to your area of inquiry. Your mentor or other colleagues may be able to assist you.

Consider other professional development activities that may be available outside your education setting. You must keep records of this professional learning, including documentation of at least two professional conversations and one learning environment observation.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EVIDENCE
• your inquiry question
• professional learning you have identified and have engaged in
• the area of practice you intend to develop and how that will improve outcomes for your learners
• at least 2 professional conversations and accompanying reflections
• at least 1 observation of a colleague’s teaching and reflections on this
• your report on legislative and other requirements to ensure child welfare and safety as well as record of discussion with your mentor
• other activities that have contributed to your professional knowledge and practice
• what you have learned and how that learning addresses your question for inquiry.
3. The action plan

The knowledge you have gained through your professional learning needs to be applied to your particular teaching context to address your inquiry question and develop the learning of those you teach.

THE ACTION PLAN

You need to develop an action plan that outlines how you will apply your new learning. This plan will be implemented over a period of 4–6 weeks and provide sufficient time for learners to demonstrate learning in relation to the inquiry question.

By assisting with the action plan, your mentor will understand what you are trying to achieve and how you are trying to do this. Consequently, the time you are working together will be directly focused on your inquiry question. This will support targeted feedback.

COMPONENTS OF THE ACTION PLAN

Your action plan should include

- learning outcomes in relation to content or skills to be taught - these may have been modified to accommodate factors affecting learning
- learning resources, practices and activities you will use to teach the content or skills
- assessment practices you will use to evaluate learning
- practices that provide a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment.

CONTENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

You have already established the content for your group of learners over a 4–6 week period and how this relates to broader curriculum or developmental expectations. You have also identified achievable and challenging learning outcomes related to the content to be taught that are based on the prior knowledge of your learners.

Your inquiry question may require you to develop your learning outcomes further for the selected learners.

Think about how you will know your change in practice has improved your learners’ engagement in learning and learning outcomes. What evidence do you need to collect to evaluate the effectiveness of your practice?

Include this in your action plan.

DEVELOPING LEARNING RESOURCES, TEACHING PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES

You have identified the characteristics of your group of learners and the factors affecting their learning.

If you haven’t already done so, relate these to your inquiry question. What do you need to include in your action plan that accommodates these factors?

In your planning also consider

- the coherence and structure of the program you develop to facilitate learning for the selected learners
- the resources you will use to teach the content (including ICT where relevant) and how they will engage your selected learners
- the teaching strategies you will use to develop knowledge, skills, problem solving or critical thinking in your selected learners
- how you will use verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to support understanding and engagement with learning
- how and when you will provide feedback to your selected learners on the progress of their learning in relation to the learning outcomes
- how you will plan for, and develop, a safe learning environment that enables every learner to participate in learning
• how you will manage learners who exhibit challenging behaviour and protect the wellbeing of learners who are vulnerable or considered ‘at risk’
• how you will engage parents / carers with the learning.

DEVELOPING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
You need to demonstrate that you have built a learning environment that is safe, purposeful and inclusive of all learners.

How are you planning for, and managing, interactions so they remain respectful for all learners - both between learners and between yourself and your learners?

How are you ensuring emotional and physical safety within the learning environment?

If you are using ICT, what strategies are you using to promote safe, ethical and responsible use in teaching and learning?

DEVELOPING ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES
To be able to reflect on the effectiveness of your practice, you need to be able to assess the learning within your area of inquiry. Your assessment of learning should include both formative and summative assessment strategies and activities, and these should be identified in your action plan.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT (FOR LEARNING AND AS LEARNING)
Formative assessments will often occur as you teach, and will allow you to monitor the progress of your selected learners while they engage with learning activities. This also provides the basis for feedback that assists learners to know how they are progressing towards their learning outcomes.

To make these assessments, you can use strategies (such as observation and questioning) or provide specific activities (including quick multiple choice tests or problem solving) to determine the level of understanding. Your feedback to learners on their understanding may be verbal or written but is usually immediate or provided at the time.

Formative assessment enables you to evaluate the effectiveness of your action plan as you implement your new practices.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (OF LEARNING)
This type of assessment usually relates to a finished product or the culmination of learning to achieve all identified learning outcomes. It is where you make a judgement about achievement of the learning outcomes based on the work produced. Often summative assessments are conveyed to learners and parents through a formal reporting process.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EVIDENCE
An action plan to address your inquiry question that includes
• learning outcomes
• the learning resources, practice and activities
• assessment practices and tasks
• modifications to the learning environment to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all learners
• how it is anticipated that these practices will address the inquiry question and improve learning.
4. Implementing your action plan

Your action plan will be implemented with your selected learners over a period of at least 4–6 weeks. If you only see your learners once or twice a week, you may want to extend this period so there is sufficient time for learners to demonstrate learning in relation to the inquiry question.

During this time your mentor / experienced colleague will work with you in your learning environment on at least three occasions

- to provide you with feedback about the effectiveness of your action plan to develop learning
- to witness your practice and therefore provide additional evidence of competence in relation to the standards.

4A. PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON THE ACTION PLAN

Your mentor / experienced colleague provides another perspective when you are implementing your action plan. Your perceptions and their observations will form the basis for discussions that are focused on the effectiveness of your action plan to address the inquiry question you have identified.

Collegial work is best supported by using a three-step sequence of

- joint planning
- collegial interaction
- professional discussion.

JOINT PLANNING / COLLEGIAL INTERACTION

Your mentor / experienced colleague’s role in the learning environment should be negotiated beforehand. Their role is not to run the activity, but to assist you and observe the effect of your practice on the learners you have selected for focus. Their feedback helps you evaluate the effectiveness of your practice and any modifications you may need to make to your action plan.

To do this effectively, you need to ensure that your colleague is adequately briefed about the progress of your action plan before they enter the learning environment (including any specific aspects you wish them to look at in particular). You will need to be very clear about what you want your learners to achieve by the end of the session, and how this fits with your learning outcomes for the program of learning.

Your mentor / experienced colleague must visit your learning environment at least three times while you are implementing your action plan. This does not need to be weekly. For instance, they may visit twice in the first week and again in the third week. You need to work out the times for collaboration that will provide you with the best opportunity for constructive feedback on your action plan. It does not have to be the same person observing you. If this is the case, ensure that adequate information is forwarded to subsequent experienced colleagues observing your practice so that there is a continuity of feedback to your practice.

PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

It’s important to find time to meet with your mentor / experienced colleague after they have visited your learning environment. The professional discussions you have will focus on the effectiveness of your action plan to develop the learning of the content you are delivering for your selected learners, including those with disability.

The professional discussion should be evidence-based. This means that the evaluation of learning should be based on observations of what learners were doing and what they produced. Using evidence of what was seen, what was heard, what was made and what was written will assist in focusing the feedback. The samples of work that formed part of the discussion can be included in your evidence of professional practice to show the learning and the effect of your practice. It may be helpful to annotate these during the discussion.

During the discussions you may identify areas of your action plan that need revision. Any changes could be the focus for subsequent visits to your learning environment by your mentor / experience colleague.

You must record a summary of these professional discussions.
WITNESSING YOUR PRACTICE
The presence of another teacher in your learning environment can be a way to verify that your practice is competent in relation to some descriptors of the standards.

Your mentor / experienced colleague will observe your capability and reflect on this in relation to the standards for Proficient Teachers. The feedback they give you should be primarily focused on your inquiry question. However, at times, they may also be able to provide feedback on other areas of practice. Where this feedback indicates competent practice, this should be included in the summary of the professional discussion, as it will strengthen your evidence of professional practice. Some of these areas are described in 4C Gathering Other Evidence below.

4B. MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIPS
When you implement your action plan you have an opportunity to demonstrate how you establish and maintain respectful and appropriate relationships with your learners, their parents and carers and with your colleagues.

Consider how you reference principles in the Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct in your day-to-day work to understand and establish appropriate relationships with your learners. You may also want to consider your interactions with parents/carers and colleagues.

Develop a brief written report documenting how you establish appropriate relationships with your learners. In your report you may like to refer to:

- specific examples of your professional interactions with your learners
- observations of your colleagues’ professional interactions with learners
- what you have learnt from your colleagues about establishing and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries with learners
- what you have learnt from your colleagues about establishing and maintaining respectful collar

Include your report in your evidence.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EVIDENCE
By the end of this section you should have implemented your action plan, including

- three visits by your mentor / experienced colleague to your learning environment (dates and outcomes of these mentor / experience colleague visits should be noted)
- engagement in professional conversations and received feedback on the effectiveness of your action plan to address your inquiry question
- modifications to your teaching strategies and / or teaching and assessment resources in relation to feedback and personal observation
- gathering evidence about the effectiveness of your action plan
- gathering evidence of the elements of your practice that were effective and what did you did to support learning
- writing a brief report on how you maintain appropriate professional relationships.

TIPS: MENTORS / EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES
The full registration process requires you to:

- observe the practice of your mentor / experienced colleague at least once
- have your practice observed by your mentor / experienced colleagues at least three times
- engage in at least three professional discussions (with one concerning child safety and welfare)

Any of the above requirements can be undertaken with your mentor or with one or more experienced teaching colleagues, providing they hold (full) registration. Depending on your context, it may be beneficial or practical to have more than one experienced colleague supporting you to meet these requirements.
4C. GATHERING OTHER EVIDENCE

While the inquiry focus supports the development of practice across a wide range of areas of focus and standard descriptors, there are some descriptors of the APST that may not be evidenced in your inquiry. In particular, the following descriptors may need to be addressed separately:

- Standard descriptor 3.5: Use effective verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to support learner understanding, participation engagement and achievement
- Standard descriptor 3.7: Plan for appropriate and contextually relevant opportunities for parents / carers to be involved in their children’s learning
- Standard descriptor 7.4: Participate in professional and community networks and forums to broaden knowledge and improve practice.

To evidence standard descriptors such as these, ask your mentor / experienced colleague to document observations about your practice.

Alternatively, there may be other colleagues and educational leaders who may be able to endorse your actions or document your positive professional behaviour that relates to such descriptors.

Any additional evidence should have a clear description of the action and / or behaviour observed and the person endorsing it must identify who they are and when this was witnessed.

A template is provided in Section 4: Evidence of professional practice.

TIPS: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LEARNING

If you do not have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learner in your learning environment, then you can hypothetically include an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander learner to demonstrate the standard.

Then you will need to ask yourself:

- what would I do if I had this learner in my group?
- how would I design and implement effective teaching strategies that are responsive to the local community and cultural setting, linguistic background and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners?

You may find the following resource useful: Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners

5. Evaluating your practice

It’s important to evaluate the impact of your practice at the conclusion of your implementation. Your prime purpose is to see whether your focused practice improves learning.

5A. ASSESSING LEARNING

To do this, you will need to assess work samples against the learning outcomes you established at the beginning of the program of learning. This could include work showing the level of learning at the beginning, during and at the end of the program. It is preferable these artefacts show a range of different activities and include more than one method of assessment, as this will offer a broader understanding of learning. Where you are investigating a group of learners, choose a selection of those learners to represent the whole. Alternatively, you may wish to aggregate evidence of learning where this is able to show the impact of your teaching practice.

The best way to evidence learning is to annotate work samples to show the level of learning and to compare this with the expected learning outcomes.

In areas of study where the artefacts of learning are not static and able to be easily reproduced (e.g. the production of a dramatic narrative in a Drama class, the development of physical skills in Physical Education, a performance in Music, or play-based learning in an early childhood services) teacher observational notes and rubrics become the artefacts of learning.

TIPS: ANNOTATING WORK SAMPLES

- annotations should identify the learning demonstrated and where there are learner misconceptions
- looking across more than one artefact will provide a better understanding of learning.
5B. EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR PRACTICE

Understanding the learning achieved during the program assists you to evaluate the effectiveness of your teaching practice. Did the revisions to your practice make a difference to the engagement of your learners? Did your learners achieve the expected learning outcomes by the end of the program and how had their level of learning increased?

What will you do next to continue to support their learning?

If there was little impact on learning, what does this tell you about your practice and what you might need to do next? What aspects of your learning could you apply to other teaching situations in the future? How will you continue to develop your knowledge and practice?

Use these questions, and others you may have, to guide reflection on your professional learning during the inquiry period. Consider the effectiveness of your practice to support teaching and learning into the future.

TIPS: REFLECTING ON YOUR LEARNING

• consider both the learning of the individuals and your own learning
• consider what comes next to further develop this area of learning and your teaching practice.
3. APPLYING FOR (FULL) REGISTRATION

Provisional registration is granted for a period of two years, with the expectation that you’ll be able to evidence the Proficient Teacher standards to achieve teacher registration or early childhood teacher registration during this time.

Evidence of practice is developed within your teaching context with the support of experienced teachers, many who have been trained as mentors. In most cases you will also have support from the educational leaders in your workplace and you will be inducted into the profession while you are developing your practice to meet the standards.

Once you have collected your evidence, you will present it to a workplace panel who will assess whether it meets the APST at the Proficient Teacher level. When you satisfy your panel, they will complete a recommendation report that you will use in your application for (full) registration.

Your application is assessed by VIT and, if successful, you’ll be granted teacher registration or early childhood teacher registration.

THE RECOMMENDATION MEETING

This meeting is an opportunity for you to present your evidence of professional practice to your workplace panel to satisfy them that you have met the Proficient Teacher standards.

It is expected in a school setting the panel comprises

• your principal or their delegate, who will assume the role of panel chair
• a registered teacher who has participated in the VIT (EMP or other) mentor training program
• a registered teaching colleague you nominate and who knows your work.

It is expected the panel structure for teachers in an early childhood setting comprises

• a registered early childhood teacher
• a registered early childhood teacher or registered teacher who has participated in the VIT (EMP or other) mentor training program
• another registered early childhood teacher or registered teacher colleague you nominate and who knows your work.

Any panel member can assume the role of panel chair.

A two-person panel is acceptable if you are in an early childhood service where you are the only registered early childhood teacher or where there is only one other registered early childhood teacher employed.

You may need to seek the assistance of registered teachers in other services and workplaces, including schools, to convene a panel to assess your evidence.

In exceptional circumstances where a panel cannot be convened as required, you should contact VIT for advice.

At least one member of your panel should have completed the Effective Mentoring Program, or other VIT mentor training program. The Effective Mentoring Program is delivered by VIT in partnership with the Department of Education and Training and with the support of the Catholic Education Offices and independent schools’ sector. Involvement provides specific training in the evaluation and recording of evidence of standards of professional practice.
The application process: step by step

**STEP 1**
Gather evidence of professional practice.
Refer to this checklist to ensure you have the required evidence of professional practice.

**STEP 2**
Arrange for a panel to assess your evidence.
Ensure you have given prior notice and arranged for a panel to be convened to assess your evidence. Your mentor may be able to assist you with this. Organise a time for the meeting, ensuring this is convenient for all members. The meeting should take about 30–45 minutes. In some circumstances, you may be assigned a time for your meeting by your educational leader or principal.

**STEP 3**
Provide evidence and the short guide to referencing the standards.
You should provide copies of your evidence of professional practice to your panel members, allowing sufficient time for them to consider your evidence prior to the meeting.

**STEP 4**
Initiating application for full registration
For VIT registration numbers that begin with a 1, 2, 3 or 4
Initiate an application through your MyVIT portal and submit the form to the employer’s portal.

For VIT registration numbers that begin with a 6
Email vit@vit.vic.edu.au to request a recommendation report and forward it to your recommendation panel prior to your meeting.

**STEP 5**
The meeting
The purpose of the meeting with your panel is to provide an opportunity for you to present your evidence of practice and support their assessment of whether you have demonstrated the standards and their descriptors at the Proficient Teacher level. Be prepared to present a brief overview of your evidence, explaining how the evidence has been developed and where you have demonstrated the APST.

The meeting is also an ideal time for you to reflect on your development as a teacher during the time you have gathered your evidence. In the discussion that follows, panel members may ask questions seeking clarification or further information about your evidence.

**STEP 6**
Panel consideration of your evidence of professional practice
The aim for the panel is a consensus view of where your evidence meets the standards and their descriptors.

Once you have presented your evidence and answered any questions, your panel members will confer about where your evidence references the Proficient Teacher standards and their descriptors. Using the short guide to referencing the standards, they will tick off each descriptor as they work through your evidence.
You should be advised about the outcome of the panel meeting and provided feedback on your evidence and a copy of the recommendation report from the panel.

STEP 7
Finalising application for teacher registration or early childhood teacher registration

The purpose of the inquiry approach and panel meeting is to provide evidence to VIT that you meet the standards at the Proficient Teacher level, and can move from provisional registration to (full) registration.

For VIT registration numbers that begin with a 1,2,3 or 4
1. Following the panel, your principal or educational leader locates your application in their portal under the ‘Applications’ tab. They complete the recommendation report online and submit it back to your portal. A copy of this report needs to be retained as a record.
2. You will access the recommendation report in your portal under the ‘My Applications’ tab. Complete the rest of the application form and submit it to VIT. You will receive a confirmation email to indicate that VIT has received your application.

VIT will process your application as soon as possible. You may be selected to provide your evidence to VIT. If this occurs, your application will not be completed until satisfactory evidence is provided.

For VIT registration numbers that begin with a 6
3. After you present evidence that you have met the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, the principal / panel chair will complete the next section of the form and email it to provisional_full@vit.vic.edu.au. They will also forward you a copy for your records.

Audit of applications

When you apply for (full) registration, you are not required to provide evidence of your professional practice. To ensure compliance, VIT randomly selects provisionally registered teachers to provide a copy of their evidence.

If requested, you will be required to provide a copy of your evidence to VIT. Original documents will be accepted by VIT but will not be returned. You should provide all evidence that was used by your panel to make a recommendation.

If you are unable to provide your evidence within the time requested, your application cannot proceed and you will be ineligible for (full) registration.

You will be able to remain provisionally registered until your expiry date.

STEP 8
Granting (full) registration

Where all requirements have been met, you will be granted teacher registration or early childhood teacher registration by VIT. This registration indicates that you have attained the Proficient Teacher level of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Once your registration is approved, you will be mailed a new registration card with details of your registration status.
Moving from provisional to (full) registration

1. **GATHER EVIDENCE**
   PRT gathers evidence of practice and completes checklist.

2. **REQUEST MEETING**
   PRT / mentor requests meeting with the Panel.

3. **INITIATE APPLICATION PROCESS**
   - **For PRTs with a registration no. starting with 1, 2, 3 or 4**
     Initiate application through MyVIT portal and submit form to the employer’s portal.
   - **For PRTs with a registration no. starting with 6**
     Email vit@vit.vic.edu.au to request a recommendation report and forward it to your panel prior to your meeting.

4. **PROVIDE EVIDENCE**
   PRT provides copies of evidence to the Panel.

5. **PANEL REFLECTION**
   Panel considers evidence and reaches consensus.

6. **COMPLETE REPORT**
   - **For PRTs with a registration no. starting with 1, 2, 3 or 4**
     Panel Chair completes the recommendation report through the employer portal. PRT submits application to VIT.
   - **For PRTs with a registration no. starting with 6**
     Panel Chair emails the completed recommendation report from their official e-mail address to provisional_full@vit.vic.edu.au.

7. **VIT AUDIT**
   VIT audit may occur. PRT submits evidence to VIT.

8. **(FULL) REGISTRATION**
   Granted (full) registration and receives (full) registration card.
Checklist: evidence of professional practice

Use this checklist to ensure you have all the evidence required to demonstrate your practice meets the standards of professional practice for (full) registration and you have followed the correct processes.

The following components have been completed and are included in your evidence of professional practice.

☐ identification of the learners whose learning is your focus
☐ identification of learners with disability whose learning is your focus
☐ identification of learners who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
☐ factors that may affect learning (including physical and mental, cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic or religious factors) of those you teach
☐ description of teaching content for the program of learning
☐ learning outcomes for the program of learning
☐ identification of an inquiry question
☐ identification of your professional learning needs to support your inquiry
☐ report and record of a professional discussion around your understanding of legislative requirements relating to child welfare and safety, including two examples of how you have implemented these requirements in your workplace
☐ record of at least one observation of a mentor / experienced colleague’s teaching practice
☐ record of at least two professional conversations with mentor / experienced colleague about your inquiry
☐ an action plan that incorporates
  • learning outcomes to be achieved
  • learning resources, practices and activities to be used
  • strategies to develop a safe and challenging learning environment
  • assessment practices and tasks to be used
☐ details of the implementation of the action plan which include
  • dates of at least three mentor / experienced colleague visits
  • summaries and learning from professional discussions related to the visits
☐ a report reflecting on your professional discussion(s) around how you establish appropriate relationships and maintain professional boundaries with your learners
☐ an analysis of the effectiveness of practice in relation to achieving the improvements in learning related to the inquiry question which includes
  • annotated work samples that analyse achievement of learning
  • reflection on what had been learned and implications for future teaching practice
☐ evidence of all 37 descriptors of the APST at Proficient Teacher level.
4. TEMPLATE FOR EVIDENCE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

1. CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR LEARNING

1A. THE LEARNERS
My learners and the reason(s) I selected them (including those with disability)

1B. LEARNING CONTEXT
The range of learning levels of my selected learners, and how I know this

Factors affecting learning of my selected learners and how I address these in my planning
1C. CONTENT FOR THE PROGRAM OF LEARNING

My annotated program of learning (showing curriculum / development, requirements, literacy / numeracy development, incorporation of ICT and understanding of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages where it’s relevant)

1D. MY EVIDENCE OF PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF LEARNERS

1E. LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE PROGRAM OF LEARNING
MY PLAN FOR...

Learners who need extension beyond the general learning

Learners who need support or modification of teaching strategies to meet the learning outcomes
2. THE INQUIRY QUESTION

2A. THE INQUIRY QUESTION
My inquiry question and how it relates to improved learning

2B. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
When I’ve observed the teaching practice of others (at least one observation)

Date

Who / what I observed

What I saw / heard / experienced

What I learned
### How does this help me address my inquiry

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**Professional conversations (based on at least two discussions)**

Date

Who I talked with

What we discussed

What I learned

How does this help me address my inquiry

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### References

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PRTs guide to the (full) registration process
Other professional learning I undertook to support my learners in relation to my question for inquiry (including PD in relation to my learners with disability)

2C. MAINTAINING CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE
Describe an overview of your legal obligations in relation to child safety and welfare. Provide at least two examples of how you have implemented your legal obligations in your workplace, making reference to any relevant workplace policies.

Professional conversation on child safety and welfare

Date

Who I talked with

What we discussed

What I learned
3. THE ACTION PLAN

THE ACTION PLAN

Documentation of

- my action plan to address the learning outcomes arising from my question for inquiry, including timelines and activities
- learning outcomes modified for particular learners and reasons for this
- specific learning resources, practices and activities I used to support learners, including those I used to meet individual learning needs
- assessment tasks I used to assess learning and provide formative and summative feedback to learners
- where I have applied my new knowledge to my teaching practice.

4 IMPLEMENTING YOUR ACTION PLAN

4A. PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON THE ACTION PLAN

Based on at least three visits. You may record these separately or consolidate them into one entry.

Mentor / experienced colleague visits – date

Signature (mentor / experienced colleague)

Summary of discussion and actions arising
4B. MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
Develop a brief written report documenting how you establish appropriate relationships with your learners. In your report you may like to refer to:

- specific examples of your professional interactions with your learners
- observations of your colleagues' professional interactions with learners
- what you have learnt from your colleagues about establishing and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries with learners.

4C. GATHERING OTHER EVIDENCE
- not all descriptors of the standards may be demonstrated in your inquiry
- your mentor / experienced colleague may have witnessed actions or practices you used that could evidence a standard or descriptor - where standards descriptors have not been evidenced in the documentation of your inquiry into practice, this additional evidence can be used
- this section should be completed by your mentor / experienced colleague where you wish to provide additional evidence - specific details of your actions or behaviour need to be documented.

Use effective verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to support understanding, participation, engagement and achievement of learners.

Plan for appropriate and contextually relevant opportunities for parents/carers to be involved in their children's learning.

Design and implement effective teaching strategies that are responsive to the local community and cultural setting, linguistic background and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
Engages with teaching colleagues, professional networks or the broader community

5. EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRACTICE

5A. ASSESSING LEARNING
Annotated samples of work from my learners and discussion of achievement of learning outcomes

5B. EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
A short guide to referencing the standards

A workplace panel determines whether your evidence demonstrates your practice in relation to the APST and their descriptors.

You should be able to demonstrate all 37 descriptors of the APST at the Proficient Teacher level in your normal teaching practice. In some circumstances you may need to negotiate with leaders in your workplace to ensure there are opportunities to evidence all descriptors. Where there is a teaching context that means there are descriptors that cannot be evidenced at all, you must contact VIT to discuss your exceptional circumstances before you finalise your evidence.

We suggest that you reference where you have provided evidence against the standards using the guide below. This will ensure you have addressed all areas required and now have evidence to support you at the panel meeting.

Please note: this can be used as a record for the recommendation meeting, but is not the recommendation report.

STANDARD 1: KNOW LEARNERS AND HOW THEY LEARN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTORS EVIDENCED</th>
<th>REFERENCED ON PAGE NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1: Use teaching strategies based on knowledge of learners’ physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics to improve their learning.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2: Structure teaching programs using research and collegial advice about learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3: Design and implement teaching strategies that are responsive to learning strengths and needs of learners from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4: Design and implement effective teaching strategies that are responsive to the local community and cultural setting, linguistic background and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5: Develop teaching activities that incorporate differentiated strategies to meet the specific learning needs of learners across the full range of abilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6: Design and implement teaching activities that support the learning and participation of learners with disability and address relevant policy and legislative requirements.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STANDARD 2: KNOW THE CONTENT AND HOW TO TEACH IT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTORS EVIDENCED</th>
<th>REFERENCED ON PAGE NO.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1: Apply knowledge of content and teaching strategies of the teaching area(s) to develop engaging teaching activities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2: Organise content into coherent, well-sequenced learning and teaching programs.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3: Design and implement learning and teaching programs using knowledge of curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4: Provide opportunities for learners to develop understanding of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STANDARD 3: PLAN FOR AND IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTORS EVIDENCED</th>
<th>REFERENCED ON PAGE NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1: Set explicit, challenging and achievable learning goals for all learners.</td>
<td>1 Achieving registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2: Plan and implement well-structured learning and teaching programs or learning sequences that engage learners and promote learning.</td>
<td>2 Gathering evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3: Select and use relevant teaching strategies to develop knowledge, skills, problem solving, and critical and creative thinking.</td>
<td>3 Applying for registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4: Select and / or create and use a range of resources, including ICT, to engage learners in their learning.</td>
<td>4 Professional practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5: Use effective verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to support understanding, participation, engagement and achievement of learners.</td>
<td>5 Further information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6: Evaluate personal teaching and learning programs using evidence, including feedback and assessment data from learners, to inform planning.</td>
<td>6 References</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7: Plan for appropriate and contextually relevant opportunities for parents / carers to be involved in their children’s learning.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STANDARD 4: CREATE AND MAINTAIN SUPPORTIVE AND SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTORS EVIDENCED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1: Establish and implement inclusive and positive interactions to engage and support all learners in learning activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2: Establish and maintain orderly and workable routines to create an environment where time is spent on learning tasks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.3: Manage challenging behaviour by establishing and negotiating clear expectations with learners and address issues promptly, fairly and respectfully.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.4: Ensure the wellbeing and safety of learners within the learning environment by implementing curriculum and legislative requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.5: Incorporate strategies to promote the safe, responsible and ethical use of ICT in learning and teaching.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### STANDARD 5: ASSESS, PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND REPORT ON LEARNING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTORS EVIDENCED</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1: Develop, select and use informal, formal, diagnostic, formative and summative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assessment strategies to assess learning.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2: Provide timely, effective and appropriate feedback to learners about their</td>
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<tr>
<td>achievements relative to their learning goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3: Understand and participate in assessment moderation activities to support</td>
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<tr>
<td>consistent and comparable judgements of learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.4: Use assessment data from learners to analyse and evaluate understanding of</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>content, identifying interventions and modifying teaching practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.5: Report clearly, accurately and respectfully to learners and parents / carers about</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>achievement, making use of accurate and reliable records.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STANDARD 6: ENGAGE IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTORS EVIDENCED</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1: Use the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and advice from colleagues</td>
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<tr>
<td>to identify and plan for professional learning needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.2: Participate in learning to update knowledge and practice, targeted to professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>needs and priorities of the education setting or system.</td>
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<td>6.3: Contribute to collegial discussions and apply constructive feedback from</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>colleagues to improve knowledge and practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.4: Undertake professional learning programs designed to address identified needs of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>learners.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STANDARD 7: ENGAGE PROFESSIONALLY WITH COLLEAGUES, PARENTS / CARERS AND THE COMMUNITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTORS EVIDENCED</th>
<th>REFERENCED ON PAGE NO.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1: Meet codes of ethics and conduct established by regulatory authorities, systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>and education settings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2: Understand implications of, and comply with, relevant legislative, administrative,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>organisational and professional requirements, policies and processes.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3: Establish and maintain respectful collaborative relationships with parents /</td>
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<tr>
<td>carers regarding their children’s learning and wellbeing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.4: Participate in professional and community networks and forums to broaden</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>knowledge and improve practice.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Helen Timperley’s teacher inquiry and knowledge-building cycle

INTRODUCTION
A cycle of reflective practice requires a teacher to make assessments about what their learners need to know and do to achieve learning outcomes. This informs the identification of the teacher’s professional learning needs. The application of this new knowledge into a teaching program can be evaluated to assess the impact on learning. This determines the next steps for learning of both the learners and their teacher. This iterative cycle provides a foundation for continual application and evaluation of teacher practice in relation to the learning of those they teach.

Helen Timperley, a New Zealand born academic, developed the teacher inquiry and knowledge-building cycle. VIT has used this model as the basis for the inquiry approach to the evidence-based process for provisionally registered teachers.

The Timperley cycle has been adapted by other educational authorities including the Victorian Department of Education and Training. You can find further information about this [here](#).
The following references are useful for providing additional knowledge around the evidence-based process and mentoring.

Timperley, Helen – Using student assessment for professional learning: Paper No.21, May 2011
Department of Education & Training
Victorian Institute of Teaching Code of Conduct
Child Safe Standards
Workplace recommendation panel document
Companion guide for PRT CRTs
Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSFl)
Overview of moving from provisional to (full) registration
Standard Inquiry Matrix
Podcasts: teacher experiences using the inquiry approach
Videos: how to become (fully) registered with VIT