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## **Upcoming changes to maintenance of accreditation for Proficient Teachers**

NESA recently consulted with stakeholders on improving the process for Proficient Teachers who are maintaining their accreditation. The feedback we received informed the revision to the NSW Teacher Accreditation Manual (TA Manual).

I am pleased to announce that NESA will soon introduce these further improvements to simplify teacher accreditation.

### **What is changing?**

From **November 2023** (date to be advised), principals and service directors will no longer need to attest that a teacher has maintained their practice at Proficient Teacher.

Instead, when a Proficient Teacher finalises their maintenance of accreditation, their declaration will come directly to NESA for a decision.

This will bring NSW into line with other states and territories across the country.

### **How will this affect schools and services?**

Teachers, principals and service directors do not need to take action as a result of the changes. When the change is implemented, teachers will declare in their NESA online account (eTAMS) that they have met their Professional Development (PD) requirements and kept a record of their Elective PD.

Employers will need to ensure their internal policies and procedures are updated in line with the changes.

### **Why has NESA made this change?**

This change simplifies the maintenance of Proficient Teacher accreditation and reduces the workload for principals and service directors.

It also recognises that fully accredited teachers:

- have met rigorous standards to be accredited
- are qualified and meet safety requirements
- continue to demonstrate competence through their work, and

- engage in continual professional development.

The change reflects an increased focus on the importance of professional development. Teachers will continue to meet their accreditation requirements by completing relevant and rigorous professional development that is aligned to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (the Standards).

### **What will be the same?**

Teachers still need to complete the 100 hours of PD, including 50 hours of NESAs Accredited PD. Completing professional development helps teachers keep up to date with relevant content, skills and pedagogy, and supports their professional growth.

Employers must notify NESAs when they have determined that a teacher's practice does not meet the Standards at Proficient Teacher, following completion of a performance process.

### **How will NESAs support schools, services and employers through the change?**

To support implementation of the changes, NESAs will soon distribute the updated TA Manual and the relevant procedures to help employers/schools/services revise their policies and procedures.

We have also included a news article on the change, which can be immediately distributed through your communication channels.

We will communicate directly to principals and those teachers whose maintenance is due before the end of 2023, well ahead of implementing the change. This communication will inform these teachers of the option to submit their maintenance under the simplified pathway.

Thank you for your continuing support of better outcomes for the children and students of NSW.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Martin**

Chief Executive Officer

**NSW Education Standards Authority**

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