

AAAE Professional Learning Position Brief

Quality teaching is frequently quoted, and substantiated by research and classroom evidence as the most important factor for the improvement of student learning in Australian schools.

AAAE believes that quality professional learning for teachers is essential to enable them to build their knowledge, understandings and skills in specific learning areas, to respond appropriately to the needs of students, and develop familiarity with a variety of pedagogical approaches.

AAAE advocates that the nature, conditions and delivery of professional learning across Australia should be reviewed and argues that there is a need to develop a strategic approach to the provision of accessible and relevant professional learning for all teachers. This requires formal co-operation between jurisdictions and professional education teachers' associations at the national and state level.

AAAE brings to the discussion the views of thousands of educators/teachers across Australia who believe that the professional learning they undertake must be of the highest quality to support their professional growth and expertise.

Professional learning should be:

- designed to build teacher capacity to support high quality student learning and ongoing learning improvement in schools
 - informed by 'state of the art' and world standard ideas, resources and approaches;
 - evidence based;
 - guided primarily by the needs identified by teachers;
 - an enabler for teachers to develop curriculum and specialist expertise in their area of teaching;
 - professional in nature, respecting teachers as skilled and highly valued professionals;
 - enabled by facilitators with relevant teaching experience and high level expertise;
 - affirming in nature and not developed from a deficit position;
 - ongoing in nature, with opportunities for follow-up and reflection;
 - supported by employers and/or site leaders through appropriate financing and time release;
 - adequately resourced;
 - contextual in nature, meeting the needs of the settings teachers are working in at the local and jurisdictional level;
 - accredited/recognised in some form by jurisdictions and/or educational entities;
 - delivered through a range of providers, including professional teacher associations.

AAAE argues that accessibility to relevant and appropriate professional learning is an entitlement for all teachers, regardless of experience, location and jurisdiction.

AAAE advocates the view that the improvement in students learning in schools across Australia is dependent on teachers being provided ongoing opportunities to participate a wide range of accessible, high quality professional learning which will enable them to meet the AITSL Professional Standards for Teachers and Leaders.