



Australian Alliance  
of Associations  
in Education

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## POSITION PAPER 3: TEACHER EDUCATION

### AAAE:

- believes that the teaching profession requires highly-educated, knowledgeable and skilled practitioners who benefit from continued involvement with national professional associations in specialist areas relevant to their teaching roles. Our member associations provide expert professional knowledge, knowledge of scholarly practice, resources and programs. We provide opportunities for ongoing engagement with colleagues and professional learning that should be commenced during Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and continued throughout teachers' careers.
- supports policies that continue to attract quality graduates into the teaching profession and contribute to increasing the status and attractiveness of teaching as a highly respected, valued and rewarding professional career.

### Initial Teacher Education (ITE):

- AAAE recognises the importance of nationally accredited quality undergraduate and postgraduate initial teacher education programs that ensure the maintenance and renewal of the teaching workforce.
- recognises that the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) program standards and graduate level *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers* now provide the required frameworks for development and accreditation of teacher education programs.
- advocate for the active use of *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers* as a framework that can contribute to professional learning at all stages, from entry, through ITE coursework, professional experience, graduation, induction and towards proficiency, highly accomplished and lead teaching, particularly through collaboration with professional education associations.
- advocates the use of the nomenclature of 'teacher education', not 'teacher training' in order to represent what it means to be a professional.
- argues that ITE should focus on developing reflective practitioners who can create innovative, engaging and relevant teaching and learning strategies that cater for diverse students' needs.
- advocates for pre-service teachers to be engaged with a diverse range of classrooms, schools and communities as active, collaborative and participatory learners during their ITE.
- supports the development of pedagogies for initial teacher education which acknowledge the balance required between the theory of learning and teaching, practical knowledge and skills in the pedagogy of learning and teaching.

### AAAE:

- Believes that its member associations have an important role to play in both on-going teacher education and in supporting the mentoring of initial teacher education students in developing specialist content knowledge and the development of pedagogies for engaging and effective professional learning across educators' careers.

