Review of the Teacher Standards

Participant Information Sheet – Discussion Paper Feedback

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Review of the Teacher Standards. The following information will help you decide if you would like to take part by providing feedback on the Review of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers Discussion Paper.

The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (Teacher Standards) were developed over 15 years ago. While the Teacher Standards continue to guide practice across Australia, they have not been formally reviewed since they were first adopted.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) was commissioned by Education Ministers on 28 April 2026 to undertake a Review of the Teacher Standards (the Review). The Review is in response to the views expressed by teachers, school leaders and the broader profession. The Review is being funded through a cost-sharing arrangement between the Australian Government and state and territory jurisdictions across the 25/26 and 26/27 financial years.

The Review is considering the extent to which the Teacher Standards remain relevant, evidence-informed and aligned with an understanding of effective practice.

As part of the Review, AITSL is consulting directly with the profession and a wide range of other key educational stakeholders to identify opportunities to strengthen or improve the Teacher Standards, so they remain fit for purpose. The information gathered will help AITSL to make recommendations to Education Ministers on any proposed revisions to the Teacher Standards.

AITSL has completed a range of evidence inputs, including a literature review, an environmental scan, and consultations with teachers, leaders, and the wider education community through a national online survey, focus groups, expert written submissions, and stakeholder group meetings. AITSL has drawn information from these evidence inputs to develop a Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper synthesises and examines the findings from the evidence inputs against the Teacher Standards to identify key areas for improvement, and test potential actions with the profession and partners. The Discussion Paper is available on AITSL's website, and interested stakeholders are invited to respond.

How can I respond to the discussion paper?

You can provide feedback by:

- making a written submission; or
- completing the online survey

Feedback closes 10 pm AEDT Friday 20 November 2026.

What will I be asked to do?

Written submission

If you choose to provide feedback via a written submission, you will be asked to:

- write a response that provides feedback on the improvement areas and potential actions contained in the Discussion Paper found on AITSL's website
- add any additional comments in relation to the Discussion Paper
- save your submission as a single file
- use doc, docx, txt or pdf formats
- restrict the file size to 1M or less
- use the link on the website to upload your written submission
- within the upload process, provide your consent, name, email, state/territory, organisation and role (if applicable), and record your preferences regarding publication of your submission.

Online survey

If you choose to provide feedback via the online survey, you will be asked to:

- complete the online survey in one sitting, allowing approximately 45 – 60 minutes to read sections of the Discussion Paper included in the survey and respond to the questions to record your views on improvement areas and potential actions
- provide your consent, as well as demographic and contextual information about yourself.

You cannot save your responses and return later. You may find it helpful to read the information about the improvement areas and potential actions in the Discussion Paper before starting the survey.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is voluntary.

Your decision to provide feedback on the Discussion Paper will not affect your employment or your membership of groups, committees or organisations.

Written submission

Your submission may only be made public on the AITSL website under your name if you provide consent when uploading your submission. If you choose not to consent, your submission will only be used for analysis; however, de-identified quotes may be used in reports. The decision to publish the set of consenting submissions will be made by Education Ministers.

If you make a submission, you may withdraw it from the Review before analysis begins on 27 November 2026. You may withdraw your consent to publish at any time. If publication has already occurred, AITSL will remove your submission from the website; however, please be aware that AITSL cannot remove copies of your submission that have previously been downloaded, cached, archived or shared by others. These changes can be made by emailing the project team at StandardsReview@aitsl.edu.au.

Online survey

If you choose to complete the online survey, you can skip any questions you would rather not answer. You can stop completing the online survey at any time without consequence. You cannot withdraw your survey

responses once they have been submitted because responses are anonymous and there is no way to identify your response.

What are the possible benefits?

Your experience and perspectives will help identify areas where the Teacher Standards may be strengthened or improved to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Information gathered will help AITSL to make recommendations on any potential revisions to the Teacher Standards.

What are the possible risks?

There is a low risk of discomfort from providing feedback to the Discussion Paper. If you choose to provide feedback via written submission, your feedback may only be made public on the AITSL website under your name if you provide consent when uploading your submission. If you do not consent, it will not be published and will only be used for analysis. You may experience a time and effort burden in providing feedback.

Although the feedback only asks for your responses to the Discussion Paper, you may feel uncomfortable responding to some sections. If you become uncomfortable or distressed while providing feedback, you may skip any question or discontinue at any time.

If participation raises concerns or distress and you would like support, you may wish to contact:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- 13YARN (for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participants): 13 92 76

What will happen to the data collected?

The collection, retention, and use of feedback will be in line with AITSL's Privacy Policy and compliant with the Australian Privacy Principles established under the *Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988* and the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation.

The survey platform used to collect the written submissions and survey feedback stores data on servers in the EU (Germany). It is therefore governed by EU privacy principles, which meet Australian privacy standards. In taking part, you agree to this transfer and storage. Your IP address is automatically collected by the survey platform for quality control purposes only, to prevent duplicate responses and ensure data integrity. This information is deleted immediately after quality checks are completed and will not be included in any analysis or reporting.

The research team is responsible for the synthesis of findings to inform decisions in the Review of the Teacher Standards. Researchers are committed to ethical research practices and do not have a conflict of interest with any aspect of this project.

Written submissions will be analysed thematically using Delve qualitative analysis software. We may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to help analyse written submissions and responses to open-format survey questions, for example, organising responses, identifying patterns and themes, and summarising findings. Only de-identified survey responses and coded extracts from written submissions will be used with AI tools. Your data will not be used to train AI models. Members of the research team will review and check all AI-generated results, and these will not be used to make decisions about individual participants.

How will the results be used?

If consent is given, submissions may be made public via the AITSL website. Analysis of feedback will inform AITSL's final report with recommendations to the Education Ministers Meeting on any potential revisions to the Teacher Standards.

Research findings will be reported via the AITSL website, subject to endorsement by Education Ministers, reports to Education Ministers Meeting, where possible, and presentations to key stakeholders and interested groups.

Where can I get further information?

More information is available on our website. It will be updated throughout the Review, sharing additional opportunities to be involved and the results of the Review.

You may also email Dr Pam Robertson, chief investigator, and Ms Sandra Robinson, Director, Teaching and School Leadership at StandardsReview@aitsl.edu.au.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

The Iris Ethics Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study (S00145) in accordance with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2025)*. This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. Should you wish to discuss the study or view a copy of the complaint procedure with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact Iris at complaints@irisethics.com.au .