

# NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

## for advanced primary teaching

Dear Colleague,

A number of professional associations have been working with Teaching Australia and other elements of the teaching profession on the development of advanced standards for teaching and school leadership. See the 'Professional Standards' section of the Teaching Australia web page for further details about this work, <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au/ta/go>.

We seek your support for a project that will develop and draft **advanced teaching standards for primary teaching** to further enhance the work outlined above.

**Background** Advanced primary teaching standards describe what accomplished primary teachers now and are able to do. The advanced standards comprise the Charter for the Australian teaching profession, generic advanced teaching capabilities and specialized descriptors of accomplishment. To view the advanced teaching capabilities and other background material, visit the Teaching Australia web page - <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au/ta/go> - and click on Professional Standards.

The Advanced Primary Teaching Standards project will work with primary teachers and other stakeholders to develop and validate 'descriptors of accomplishment' for advanced primary teaching. These descriptors are elaborations of observable and demonstrable professional practice. They describe what teachers should know and do to show that they have accomplished the relevant capability. Guidelines for drafting National Professional Standards can be found on the Teaching Australia web page, <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au/ta/go>

The Australian Mathematics Teachers Association (AAMT) is working in partnership with Teaching Australia to lead and manage this project.

A Working Group is being formed to enable all aspects of this project including gathering ideas, providing input and direction to the writing group, facilitating consultation on draft versions of the standards and ensuring that processes are robust and inclusive.

Further background about the working group can be found on the attached Expression of Interest. For details about the project in general go to the project web page <http://primarystandards.aamt.edu.au/>

### **Your support**

The main purpose of this letter is to ask your association to support this project in either of the ways outlined below.

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Advanced Primary Teaching Standards  
GPO Box 1729 Adelaide SA 5001 phone 08 8363 0288 fax 08 8362 9288 email [primarystandards@aamt.edu.au](mailto:primarystandards@aamt.edu.au)

*The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers is working in partnership with Teaching Australia to lead the development of national professional standards for advanced primary teaching.*

<http://primarystandards.aamt.edu.au>

### ***Working Group***

Please encourage you members to consider joining the working group. People join associations like yours because they have high levels of passion about students, teaching and learning and they want to see the teaching profession grow in strength and purpose. Many of your members are also practicing teachers. For all these reasons we believe that many your members would be ideal candidates for the working group. All travel and other costs associated with attending workshops will be covered. Further details can be found attached to this letter and at <http://primarystandards.aamt.edu.au/>. **Expressions of Interest from primary teachers to be a member of the Working Group are due by Monday 16 March.**

### ***Promoting this project***

It's very important that advanced primary teaching standards are developed by teachers and others with knowledge and experience in the field. Your association is in direct contact with many such teachers / stakeholders and we sincerely request that you provide whatever support you can to get your members, and other teachers, engaged in the development of the standards. Here are some suggested ways that you could support the project:

- raise awareness of the project through your newsletter, web page and other ways that you communicate with your members;
- encourage your members to register their interest on the project's web page <http://primarystandards.aamt.edu.au/>. Your members will get regular updates about the progress of the project and have the opportunity to comment on draft versions of the standards as they become available;
- promote discussion of advanced primary teaching standards through the regular activities of your associations such as conferences, professional development activities and other meetings;
- encourage members to get involved in validation (later in the year);

***Inclusion.*** It's especially important that the process includes input from the breadth of primary teaching in our nation. As you plan ways that you could support this project please help us encourage **all** stakeholders to get involved regardless of where they work, who they work with, who they work for or how long they have been involved in primary teaching.

### ***Questions and further information***

Contact the Project Manager Ross Prout, [primarystandards@aamt.edu.au](mailto:primarystandards@aamt.edu.au) or telephone 0407 195 852

We greatly appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely



Will Morony

Project Director

# ADVANCED PRIMARY TEACHING STANDARDS PROJECT

## Expressions of Interest: Working Group

**Overview:** The Working Group will take a key role in enabling all aspects of this project including gathering ideas, providing input and direction to the writing group, facilitating consultation on draft versions of the standards and ensuring that processes are robust and inclusive. The management group will provide support and leadership to the working group.

**Project outcome:** National professional standards for Advanced Primary Teaching Standards.

**Composition of the Working Group:** Approximately 15 people will form the Working Group. Seven will be nominees of professional associations on the Advisory Group for this project, five will be selected from EOI and the remainder will be members of the management group.

### The tasks:

- Engage teachers and stakeholders in describing what advanced primary teachers know and do. The working group will generate discussion and seek input from a wide range of colleagues from across the country - from government and non-government schools; metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations; and across specialist fields of primary teaching such as special needs, Indigenous education, ESL and so on.
- Synthesize stakeholder views, research evidence, and other information during the workshop and provide substance for the writing team that is responsible for drafting the standards.
- Continue to sustain the conversation during consultation and validation, assessing new information and opinions and advising the writing team accordingly.
- Provide leadership and expertise during the consultation, validation and refinement phases of this project.
- Two members of the working group will be invited to join the writing team.

**Timeline:** The Working Group will commence work through professional networks as soon as possible and gather to workshop ideas on Sat/Sun, 28/29 March, 2009. Directions and input for the Writing Team will be a major outcome of the workshop. The Working Group will meet for a second workshop on Sat/Sun 8/9 August, 2009 to consider feedback from consultation and validation and to provide additional input and advice to the Writing Group. Members of the Working Group will be called upon for expert advice and other support from time to time during the life of the project. The planned end date of the project is mid-December 2009. Other key events are listed in the chart below.

### Key phases/steps

<b>Preparation.</b> Establish a project team, advisory group, working group and strategies to engage primary teachers and other stakeholders	Jan - Feb, 2009
<b>Raise awareness</b> of the project and encourage primary teachers and stakeholders to actively engage in the process	Jan - Jul, 2009

<b>A Working Group</b> made up of practising teachers collates ideas and provide direction for the writing group - <b>Workshop 1, Sat/Sun, 28/29 March, 2009*</b>	Mar - Apr, 2009
<b>A Writing Group</b> to develop an initial draft	Mar - Apr, 2009
<b>Consultation.</b> Draft 1 made available for feedback from stakeholders	Jun - Jul, 2009
<b>Redrafting 1.</b> Working group and writing group use feedback to prepare Draft 2 of the descriptors – <b>Workshop 2, Sat/Sun, 8/9 August, 2009*</b>	Aug, 2009
<b>Validation.</b> Teachers use a range of validation exercises to determine whether the descriptors are observable in practice and are recognized as being associated with ‘accomplished’ teaching.	Sep - Oct, 2009
<b>Redrafting 2.</b> Input from validation is used by the working group and writing group to further refine the descriptors – Draft 3	Nov, 2009
<b>Conclusion.</b> Draft 3 is considered by the advisory group, modified as necessary, and a Final Draft is provided to <i>Teaching Australia</i> .	Dec, 2009

**\* These workshops are critical elements in the development process and all members of the working group are expected to attend.**

**Expenses:** Travel, accommodation, teacher relief (when required) and other reasonable expenses will be met by the Project.

**Selection:** The management group will be responsible for selection of candidates, based on expressions of interest and referee comments. The panel will be looking for individuals who:

- have experience and expertise in primary teaching. This may be as a current practitioner or someone who knows the field through other work such as consultant, researcher, former teacher or other background;
- can represent or reflect the diversity that characterizes primary teaching, e.g. regional/rural/remote locations, special need students, and other specialist areas of teaching;
- have a proven capacity to engage other professionals in this conversation, e.g. through professional associations or other networks,
- have expertise in synthesizing complex ideas and opinions into succinct statements that will be readily recognized and ‘owned’ by the teaching profession, especially those in the primary sector.

## **SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**Written statement:** Written statements should explain how and why the candidate excels in the areas outlined above. The statement may include other reasons why the candidate is highly suitable for this work. Written statements should not exceed one x A4 page.

Candidates who would like to be considered for the writing team should include an additional statement explaining the special skills and abilities they can bring to the writing team. Written statements for these candidates can be up to 1.5 x A4 pages.

**Referees:** Please provide the management group with the name and contact details for two referees who can comment on your suitability for this work.

**Other details to include in the Expression of Interest:** Name, contact details (telephone, email, postal address), details of current work.

**Where and when to send Expressions of Interest:** email to [primarystandards@aamt.edu.au](mailto:primarystandards@aamt.edu.au) by **16 March 2009**.