

Information Sharing

Fact Sheet

The objective of the *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004* (the Act) is to ensure that only persons who are fit and proper, appropriately qualified and competent to teach, are employed as teachers in the Northern Territory. The Act now contains provisions pertaining requiring that the Board be notified of certain information by teachers, employers and other government agencies such as Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is an offence to provide false or misleading information to the Board. However people who provide information to the Board acting in good faith are protected.

Who can the Board share information with?

The Board has the authority to share information with others such as other teacher regulatory authorities, employers, Police and the Screening Authority (SafeNT). The sharing of information with other agencies is to ensure transparency in decision making and open communication about such things as the commencement and outcome of disciplinary proceedings. For example, the Board may share the outcome of a disciplinary proceeding cancelling registration of a teacher to a local sporting club where the teacher also instructs children

What can employers share with the Board?

Employers are required to notify the Board of matters relating to serious misconduct, or where a teacher's fitness and propriety or competence comes into question. For matters of competence, the Board is notified only after the employer has conducted their process of remediation, and a teacher's competence is still in question. For matters that relate to serious misconduct the Board is notified when an employer commences investigating and again at the completion of the investigation process.

What information can the Board publish?

The Board will be able to publish case studies or case histories about inquiries in the annual report. The Board has carefully considered the need to balance openness and transparency with protecting the privacy of students and families in a very small jurisdiction like the Territory. This amendment safeguards an individual's privacy by limiting the information that can be published in the Annual Report, aiming to ensure that those involved in disciplinary matters including students, teachers, employers and schools cannot be identified.

The information available to the public on the register of teachers will not change. However there will be additional information on a teacher's registration certificate such as specific conditions that may be imposed on a teacher's registration.

For more information on Review of Board decisions, refer to the Review of Board decisions on the Board's website www.trb.nt.gov.au, or you may choose to seek legal advice or advice from NTCAT.

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