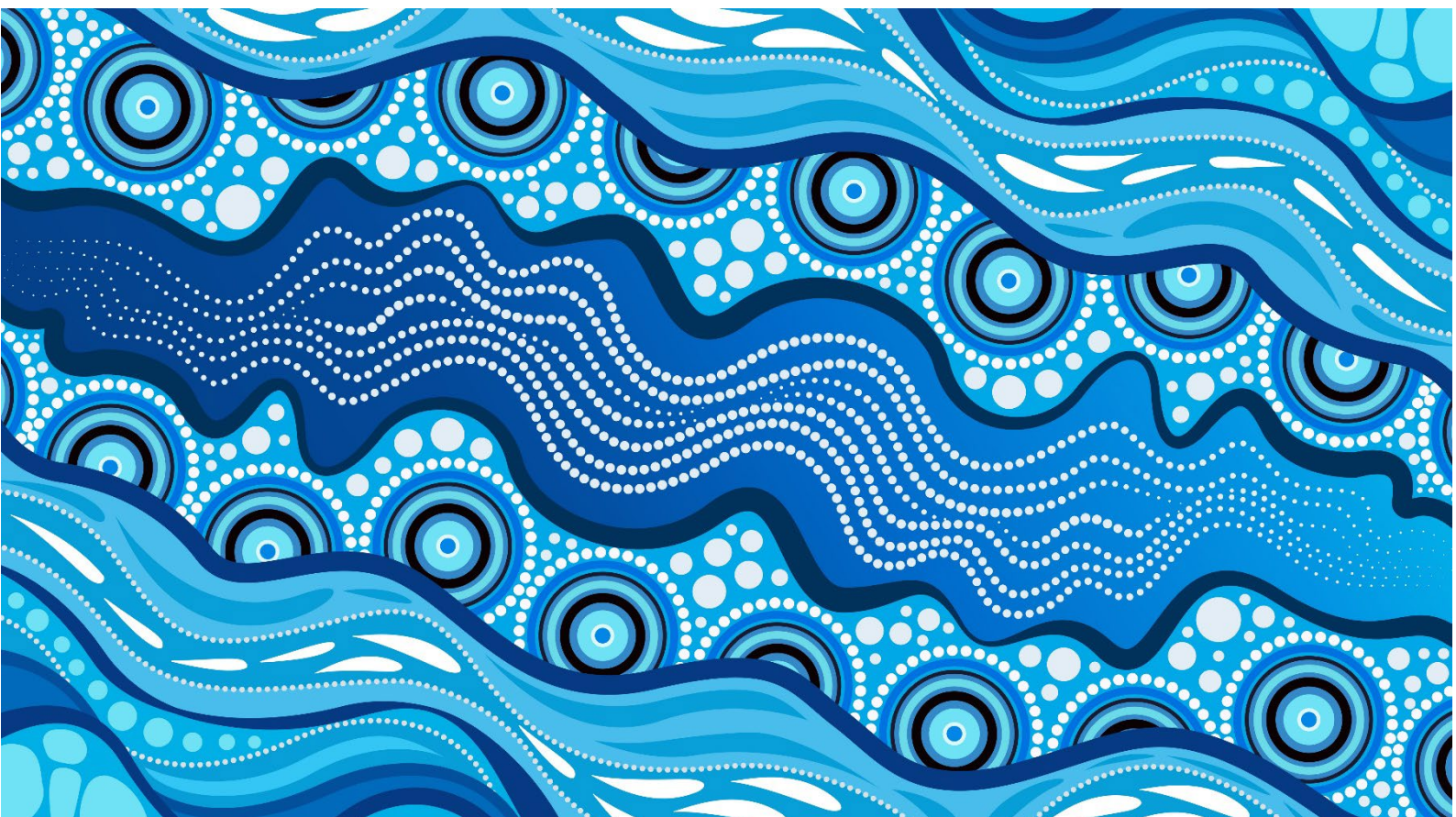


Practice Currency and Registration Policy

Policy



Document title	Practice Currency and Registration Policy
Contact details	Manager, Policy and Secretariat
Approved by	Teacher Registration Board
Workstream	
Date approved	July 2026
Document review	2029 April
TRM number	TRM: 50-D26-55065

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1	April	Director	First version

Acronyms	Full form
AITSL	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership
APST	Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
NT	Northern Territory
the Act	<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004</i>
the Board	Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory
the Regulations	<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Regulations 2004</i>

To be read in conjunction with:	
Title	Location / Link
<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004</i>	https://legislation.nt.gov.au
<i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Regulations 2004</i>	https://legislation.nt.gov.au
Practice Currency and Registration Procedure	50-D26-55038
AITSL Framework for Teacher Registration in Australia (August 2024)	https://www.aitsl.edu.au
Condition Monitoring Guideline	50-D26-46716

Summary

The *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004* (the Act) requires all teachers working in schools and other educational institutions in the Northern Territory (NT) to be registered with the Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory (the Board).

Full Registration is granted for a period of up to five years. A person who does not meet the currency of practice requirements for Full Registration but is otherwise eligible may apply for Provisional Registration under section 31.

Currency of practice is defined as a minimum of 100 days of full-time teaching or equivalent practice service (or equivalent part-time service) as a principal or teacher at a school in Australia or New Zealand, within the five-year period immediately preceding an application. A returning teacher who cannot meet this threshold does not hold currency of practice and is therefore ineligible for Full Registration.

Purpose

This policy establishes the Board's requirements for assessing competence to teach when a person applies for, or seeks for reapplication, teacher registration and has not engaged in active teaching practice for five or more years.

The policy specifies:

- the categories of applicant to whom return-to-practice requirements apply
- the standards against which competence is assessed
- the types of condition the Board may attach to registration, and
- the governance framework within which those conditions are monitored.

These requirements give effect to the Act, the Regulations, and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) Framework for Teacher Registration in Australia (August 2024), and support high-quality education outcomes for students in the NT.

Scope

This policy applies to all persons applying for registration or transition from Provisional to Full Registration under the Act, who have not engaged in active teaching practice for a continuous period of five years or more.

For the avoidance of doubt, this policy does not replace or diminish any other mandatory registration requirement, including:

- prescribed teaching qualifications (sections 30 and 31 of the Act)
- fitness and propriety requirements (section 32 of the Act)
- English language proficiency requirements
- Working with Children clearance (Ochre Card), and
- professional learning requirements applicable to renewal of Full Registration.

Policy Details

Sections 30 and 31 of the Act establish the eligibility criteria for Full Registration and Provisional Registration respectively. Section 31 ratified a person is eligible for Provisional Registration if the

Board is satisfied, they do not have the prescribed professional experience and currency of practice for Full Registration but are otherwise eligible for Full Registration under section 30.

Section 37 governs renewal of registration.

Regulation 4(2)(d) of the *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Regulations 2004* (the Regulations) specifies the matters the Board may consider in determining whether a person is competent to teach, including prior qualifications, previous registration, and prior teaching experience considered appropriate by the Board.

A person who has not engaged in active teaching or equivalent practice for five or more years will ordinarily be ineligible for Full Registration due to a lack of currency of practice. The Board will, in such cases, assess the person's application for Provisional Registration and, where registration is granted, attach conditions to that registration commensurate with the period of absence from practice.

The Board recognises the AITSL Framework for Teacher Registration in Australia (August 2024), in particular section 7.2 which provides that regulatory authorities may require teachers with unmet professional practice requirements (including returning teachers) to demonstrate current knowledge and practice within a specified timeframe, including through specific professional learning conditions.

Registration conditions for returning teachers will be determined by reference to the Board approved framework set out in the accompanying Procedure document. Conditions may include:

- completion of a self-assessment against the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST)
- a reflective statement addressing all seven APST domains in an Australian school setting
- a principal's competence statement against the APST, and
- formal lesson observations by a mentor or senior teacher.

Conditions attached to registration will be monitored in accordance with the Condition Monitoring Policy and Condition Monitoring Guideline. The Conditions Monitoring Group is responsible for oversight, risk identification, and recommendations to the Board or Director regarding conditions. Day-to-day recording and communication are managed by the relevant teams within the office of the Board.

Where the period of absence is such that the Board is not satisfied registration is appropriate, the Board may refuse the application under section 36 (new applications) or section 39 (renewal applications) of the Act. All decisions are subject to the review rights set out in Part 6 of the Act.

Roles and responsibilities

Primary operational responsibility for the assessment of returning teacher applications rests with the Manager, Registration and Authorisation, supported by the registration team.

The Board retains decision-making authority in respect of all registration conditions, variations, and refusals. The Conditions Monitoring Group is responsible for monitoring compliance with conditions attached under this policy.

Policy ownership rests with the Manager, Policy and Secretariat, in collaboration with the Authorisation and Registration workstream. This policy is reviewed in accordance with the Document Governance Framework.

Definitions

Active teaching practice	service as a principal or teacher at a school in Australia or New Zealand, or equivalent practice as defined by the Board, that counts towards currency of practice.
Currency of practice	a minimum of 100 days of full-time service (or equivalent part-time service) in active teaching or equivalent practice within the five-year period immediately preceding the date of application, as required for Full Registration. Note: earlier TRB guidelines referenced 180 days; the current statutory minimum is 100 days as set out on the TRB website and aligned with the AITSL Framework requirement of 100 days.
Returning teacher	a person who was previously registered as a teacher and is applying for registration after a period of five or more years without active teaching practice.
Provisional Registration	a category of registration granted under section 31 of the Act to a person who is otherwise eligible for Full Registration but does not hold sufficient currency of practice.

Relevant Legislation

- *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004*
- *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Regulations 2004*

Related Documents

- Practice Currency and Registration Guidelines