



4 March 2019

Committee Secretary  
Education, Employment and Small Business Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane City Qld 4011

[EESBC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:EESBC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

### **Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019**

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) provides this submission on the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019* to inform the Committee's detailed consideration.

QCEC is the peak strategic body with state-wide responsibilities for Catholic schooling in Queensland. This submission is provided on behalf of the five Diocesan Catholic school authorities and 17 Religious Institutes and other incorporated bodies which, between them, operate a total of 306 Catholic schools that educate more than 147,000 students in Queensland.

QCEC supports the Bill to enable the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) to perform the role of a certifying authority for the certification of highly accomplished and lead teachers in Queensland Catholic schools and teachers in Queensland State schools against the national Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST).

Highly accomplished and lead teacher certification has been available to teachers in Queensland Catholic schools since July 2018. Although no Catholic school teachers have undertaken certification those who are currently preparing and planning to do so will benefit from the QCT being the certifying authority.

The QCT is familiar to all teachers in Queensland Catholic schools as it is the state's regulatory authority of the teaching profession. The QCT administers the two lower levels of the APST at the provisional registration (graduate) and full registration (provisional) career levels. As such, the QCT has the necessary expertise to administer and award certification at the two higher levels of the APST (highly accomplished and lead teacher); including access to review and appeals processes.

QCEC notes that the prescribed application fee (\$1,500) to be paid to the QCT will not cover the full cost of certification services. QCEC anticipates the full cost will likely be significantly greater than the prescribed amount and that the additional amount will need to be met by employers and employing authorities.

QCEC is concerned that the Bill does not contain provision to enable the QCT to revoke certification of highly accomplished and lead teachers and asks the Committee to consider including provision for revocation.

QCEC suggests there is a reasonable public expectation that teachers whose actions bring themselves and/or the teaching profession into disrepute would not be able to continue to hold highly accomplished or lead teacher certification. In order to first achieve highly accomplished or lead teacher certification, teachers must provide evidence against the APST that they are recognised and respected by their colleagues, parents/carers and the community. Further, the main objectives of the QCT include upholding the standards of the teaching profession and maintaining public confidence in the profession.

I would welcome the opportunity to further expand on the issues raised in this submission in person. Please contact me by email [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED]. I am available to appear before the Committee at the public hearing on 13 March 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Perry', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM**  
Executive Director