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Education and Innovation Committee
Parliament House,
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

SUBMISSION ON THE EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

I have been authorised by the Board of the Queensland College of Teachers (the QCT), to submit the following comments for consideration by the Committee in relation to the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (the Bill) introduced by the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations into the Legislation Assembly on 21 August 2012. The comments relate only to those aspects of the Bill concerning amendment to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 (EQCT Act).

The amendments specifically relevant to the functions of the Board of the QCT are those related to the National Professional Standards that have been developed by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and which have been endorsed by Education Ministers. The QCT supports the amendments proposed to the EQCT Act.

The QCT was very much involved in the development of the National Standards and the Board of the QCT has agreed to their implementation in 2013, subject to legislative action. The QCT, as required by the EQCT Act, has developed Professional Standards for Teachers in Queensland and those Standards have been in place since 2006. The National Standards are consistent with the Professional Standards for Teachers in Queensland.

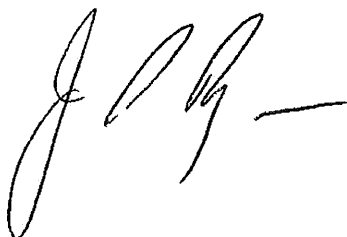
While agreeing to the adoption of the National Standards as they are presently, the Board of the QCT also considers it is necessary to have available the ability, with the Minister's consent, to adopt and/or develop standards other than the National Standards. This action should be available to cover contingencies where the National Standards do not retain currency or where the QCT might consider that the core elements of the National Standards need strengthening.

The transitional provisions proposed by the amendments are considered necessary to ensure the continuing application of Professional Standards to Queensland Teachers until the National Standards come into effect. Transition is also important to ensure that there is

clear guidance on what standards will apply in the transition period in matters such as approval of preservice teacher education programs, whether provisional or full registration should be granted, and the requirements for teachers to move from provisional to full registration.

In the event that the Committee requires any further information from the QCT, I can be contacted on (07) 3377 4730 or by email: john.ryan@qct.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Ryan', followed by a horizontal line.

John Ryan
Director