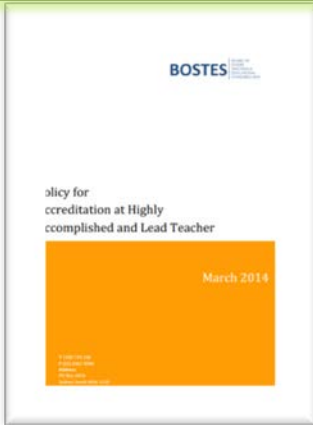


# Accreditation at Highly Accomplished and Lead



## Principles

- Teaching standards are the basis of accreditation processes.
- Teacher quality is fundamental to developing student learning.
- The teaching profession can identify and recognise teacher quality at highly accomplished and lead levels
- Applying for accreditation at Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher is voluntary.
- Accreditation at Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher is strengthened by the use of externally moderated professional judgements and multiple sources of evidence to make accreditation decisions. Inherent within the process is the capacity for teachers to demonstrate the Standards over time.



<http://www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au/DownloadDocument.aspx?DocumentID=1061>

## ... about Professional Associations



The University of Melbourne Director of Learning and Teaching is also a member of several international associations and is the president of the Australian College of Educators. He believes people join associations for several reasons. "One is the professional development angle where you can get access to current thinking, research and so forth and you can share ideas, exchange ideas and resources," Dinham explains. "What happens with some of the specialised [associations] is they do things like develop resources, they do submissions, they work together on things like curriculum, resources, they are involved with curriculum development and examinations in their own area." Dinham believes that in the current political climate, the role of professional associations has become increasingly important. "What's tended to happen is there is a lot of change being imposed and produced in education and the educators have not been consulted or have been part of that process, so it's important professional associations can actually critique

### 10 member benefits

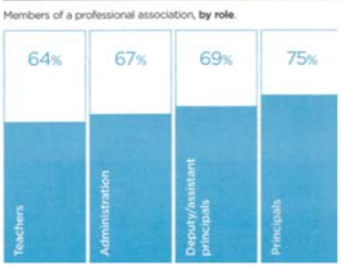
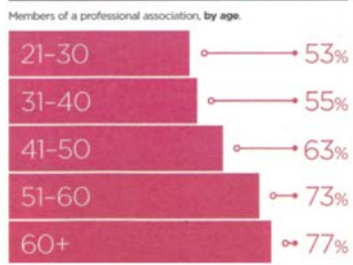
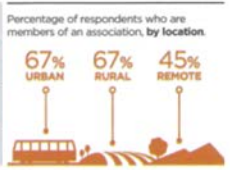
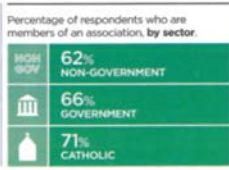
The Professional Teachers' Council NSW is an education support organisation for professional teachers' associations in New South Wales, with more than 45 member associations. Executive officer Kim Tzolakis says the top 10 member benefits provided by associations include:

- 1 networking, communication and sharing of resources between members from all sectors; opportunities to attend targeted study tour programmes relevant to specific curriculum areas; newsletters, professional development and leadership at the school and community level
- 2 being involved in activities that assist and develop professional practice
- 3 access to quality professional development for the maintenance of accreditation, and offered at member rates for all endorsed courses at all levels: proficient; highly accomplished; and lead levels
- 4 opportunities to engage with, and participate in: BOSTES Curriculum Committees; BOSTES Quality Teaching Council; workshop and/or conference presentations of research and/or classroom practice; scholarships for research and/or further study; advocacy
- 5 funding opportunities for research and school-based projects as they become available at state and federal levels
- 6 opportunities to participate in consultations and represent the profession through active advocacy with stakeholder organisations
- 7 automatic access to information about educational initiatives, funding and trends provided by the state – Professional Teachers' Council NSW; and the national body – Australian Professional Teachers' Association
- 8 leadership opportunities as a member of an association executive/ board of management and/or committee member
- 9 contributing to the profile of the profession through a unified, cross sectoral voice on educational and professional matters
- 10 enhancing the public profile of teachers and the profession from all sectors by highlighting the contribution they make to education

McGuire also believes it is important for young people to get involved in associations to develop an awareness of the wider education system. "You can learn about best practice and ... modify it to your own setting and having been a novice teacher and now a very experienced teacher ... the subject conferences and the regular constancy of meetings with good practitioners and conversations still continue today with people who taught me how to teach."

## Associations widely valued: EducationSurvey

Australian Teacher Magazine's annual EducationSurvey allows teachers, school leaders, and support staff to voice their opinions on the issues affecting the sector. Here, we present a selection of the results relating to professional development and professional associations. The survey, conducted late last year, involved more than 3200 participants from both government and non-government school settings. While it has been suggested that there has been a decline in the number of educators involved in professional associations, our data indicates that more than two-thirds of the educators surveyed still value the importance of the organisations.



Respondents who are members of an association

# 67%