

3 September 2021

Consultation on teacher refresh requirements for renewing practicing certificates

We are pleased to provide comment to the Teaching Council on teacher refresh requirements for renewing practicing certificates.

About Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand

Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand (ECNZ) is an Incorporated Society of members committed to high quality early childhood education for every child. Established in 1963, the organisation is an influential leader in shaping today's early childhood sector through advocacy, policy, tertiary education qualifications and professional development programmes.

We advocate for early childhood education services and the teachers|kaiako who provide education to thousands of infants, toddlers, and children|tamariki. Our members are drawn from a diverse range of community-based, privately-owned, kindergarten and homebased early childhood education services.

Te Rito Maioha is also a registered Private Training Establishment (PTE) with the highest Category One rating for a tertiary provider. We are accredited and approved by New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to deliver a range of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate qualifications (levels 4-9), including specialist teacher|kaiako education, both nationally and internationally.

We are committed to achieving high-quality teaching and learning by:

- increasing teachers' |kaiako knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Aotearoa New Zealand's dual cultural heritage;
- providing access to online blended delivery of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate tertiary education programmes leading to recognised and approved qualifications;
- promoting quality teaching and leadership through ongoing professional learning and development programmes;
- providing a range of unique resources and services to our members.

General Comments

Satisfactory recent teaching experience in Aotearoa is important to ensure that our kaiako are culturally relevant and understand our pedagogical and theoretical approaches. This is particularly important in ECE where overseas pedagogies, values and teaching styles are vastly different to those outlined in Te Whāriki.

We need to strike the balance between addressing teacher shortages and not lowering the quality of our education system.

While we understand the intent of the changes, we have a number of questions:

1. Why do we want teachers renewing practicing certificates without "satisfactory recent teaching experience"?
2. What is considered to be overseas satisfactory recent teaching experience? How is overseas experience relevant to Aotearoa New Zealand context? How can an overseas teacher's curriculum, pedagogy and system knowledge be current?

3. Are there guidelines for the Teaching Council exercising its discretion in the areas of overseas experience and length of recent teaching experience?

We also have the following specific feedback:

New/Beginning Teacher Practice Plan - new

While we agree with the intent/rationale for the New/Beginning Teacher Practice Plan, there are often reasons why some kaiako are not able to meet the satisfactory recent teaching requirements within the first 5 years. Allowing them to complete a self-assessment of their learning needs and identify PLD with no input or feedback from others, is a concern.

There is no requirement for an external party to monitor whether the PLD has been completed. There is also a lost opportunity for kaiako to be supported in meeting requirements and choosing appropriate PLD.

If the kaiako is still unable to meet the requirements at a subsequent renewal, the Council requirement for the completion of additional PLD to ensure currency in developments in teaching and learning also needs to be verified.

Return to Practice Plan - updated wording only

We agree with the updated wording to clarify that the refresh option could be applied when a teacher has insufficient teaching service as well as when they have not completed any teaching.

How will the RTTP be monitored to ensure it is complete? How will this be enforced?

Teacher Education Refresh programmes – changed and updated wording

We agree with the inclusion of TER for Tōmua|Provisional teachers who cannot meet the satisfactory recent teaching experience requirements where the Teaching Council has not exercised its discretion to approve a shorter time period.

We also agree that unless an exemption is obtained, a TER programme will be required when a teacher has spent time teaching overseas but the role was not equivalent to a teaching position in an educational institution in New Zealand.

Returning to Teaching in Aotearoa New Zealand (RTTANZ) practising certificate – changed

We agree that having a pathway for teachers who were fully certificated, but whose practising certificates have expired to re-enter the teaching profession is important.

However, allowing teachers who have not completed any teaching in the last five years to complete a self-assessment of their learning needs and identify PLD, is not adequate. A teacher without current experience doesn't know what they don't know.

Again, who will monitor whether the self-assessment is robust and if the PLD has been completed? We suggest that the teaching practice of these teachers is assessed by a registered teacher who is impartial (not a potential employer) and that a RTTP is completed in consultation with a registered teacher.

Make submission to : teacherrefreshconsult@teachingcouncil.nz by 3 September 2021.

Key contact for Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand:

Kathy Wolfe, Chief Executive

kathy.wolfe@ecnz.ac.nz 04 471 6802

