

Dear registrant

Important new requirements for 2016 VIT renewal

When you renew your registration by 30 September this year you will be required to declare any professional development (PD) activities undertaken in the previous 2 years that develop your capability to teach learners with a disability (special needs).

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Victorian government has made a strong commitment to improving access to and participation in learning for children and young people with special needs (disabilities). This is consistent with the feedback you and your colleagues have given. Many of you have told us that you don't feel well equipped to deal with the learners you encounter who have a disability and that you would like more opportunities to understand the needs of these learners to improve their learning outcomes.

PD SUPPORTING QUALITY TEACHING

Research tells us that quality teaching is one of the most significant factors in improving learning outcomes for children and young people. This means that, to meet the needs of your learners with a disability, you must be able to access effective professional learning to support and enhance your knowledge and practice.

When you focus on PD about learners with a disability you will be updating and improving your capability to:

- Develop teaching activities that incorporate differentiated strategies to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities. (*Standard descriptor 1.5*)
- Design and implement teaching activities that support the participation and learning of students with disability and address relevant policy and legislative requirements. (*Standard descriptor 1.6*)
- Establish and implement inclusive and positive interactions to engage and support all students in classroom activities. (*Standard descriptor 4.1*).

PD covering these areas is available for teachers with varying levels of knowledge and expertise. Use the [VIT Special Needs PD Guide](#) to assist you to select Special Needs PD that meets your individual professional learning needs. Find out more about available PD

at www.vit.vic.edu.au.

YOUR PD FOR RENEWAL

The PD you undertake in Special Needs should be recorded and evidenced as part of your annual renewal requirement of at least 20 hours of PD. We recognise you need time to undertake PD and implement new learning effectively. Therefore, if you are unable to meet the requirement when you renew in 2016, you **must** meet this requirement by 30 September 2017 to maintain your teacher or early childhood teacher registration.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Teacher professional learning has the power to make a real difference to children and young people with disabilities. We will be progressively seeking feedback about PD you've undertaken and how this has developed your capability to improve the outcomes for learners with a disability.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Further information about this important teacher requirement can be found at www.vit.vic.edu.au. We will be posting regular Special Needs updates.

MELANIE SABA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER