



23 March 2023

Review of initial teacher education must prioritise the support and welfare of our next generation of teachers

The IEU welcomes the opportunity to share the classroom insights and experiences of our 75,000 members as part of the Teacher Education Expert Panel consultation process following release of the [Panel's Discussion Paper](#).

The government's continued collaboration with the teaching profession on this critical area of reform is essential to provide practical outcomes to benefit our students and our teachers.

While the discussion paper includes reference to important issues impacting the provision of quality teacher education programs, these don't exist in isolation from other factors contributing to current teacher shortages across the country.

Sending new teachers into classrooms to then immediately be overwhelmed by unsustainable workloads is decimating our next generation of teachers.

Throughout the Panel's period of consultation, the IEU has been highlighting the additional support measures needed by student teachers during their studies, practicum placements and initial teaching appointment. We will continue to pursue these issues in the next phase of the review.

Quality teaching mentors are central to quality teacher education outcomes. School employers must do more to ensure such support is available in all school settings, and that meaningful workload reductions are provided to experienced teachers to support their mentor role.

The Panel's review must avoid quick fixes and knee jerk reactions that would send unprepared teachers into classrooms. Teacher education programs must be rigorous, comprehensive, practical and world best. Rushing teachers into classrooms before they are ready will only exacerbate teacher burnout.

Our members will share their professional and experienced voice to the review as part of our broad campaign to repair an education sector in crisis.