



Teacher Registration and Professional Boundaries



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What this presentation will cover

The role of
the QCT

Professional
Boundaries

Applying for
teacher
registration

Questions



The Queensland College of Teachers

Many inspiring teachers -
one inspiring profession

quality regulation
quality teachers



Professional Boundaries: A Guideline for Queensland Teachers



Legislation – s9

(1) A person is eligible for provisional registration if the college is reasonably satisfied –

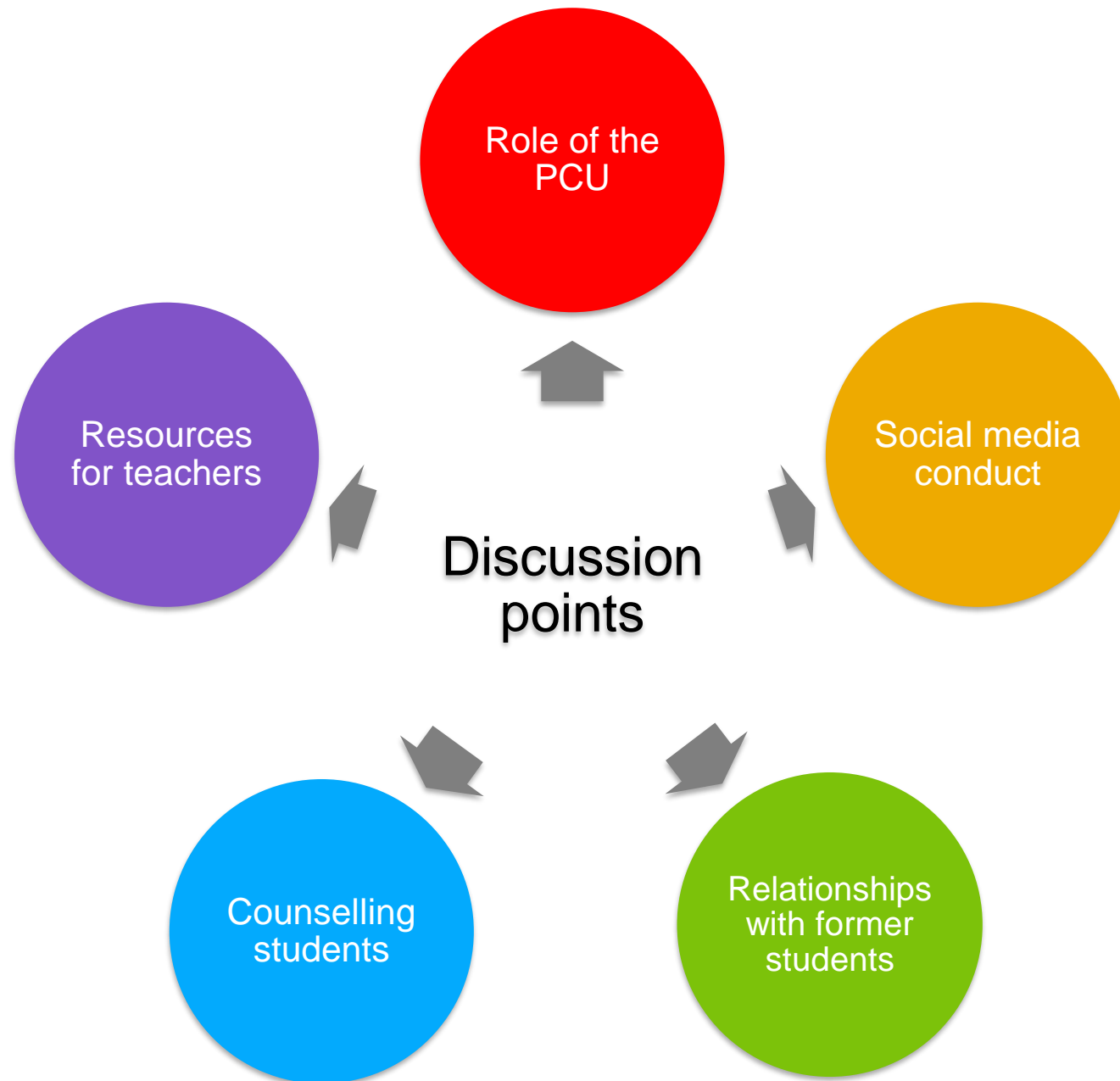
(a) either –


(i) the person has attained the qualifications for provisional registration prescribed under a regulation; OR

(ii) the person's education, abilities, experience and contribution to education establish the person **meets the requirements under the professional standards** for provisional registration; and

(b) the person is suitable to teach; and

(c) the person meets any other requirements for professional practice for provisional registration prescribed under a regulation.





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Standards & Conduct

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Professional boundaries

Professional Boundaries: A Guideline for Queensland Teachers

Teachers are responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries with students. Professional Boundaries: A Guideline for Queensland Teachers is designed to assist teachers. It can help teachers to consider the implications and potential consequences of engaging in certain behaviours with students. It can guide teachers in their response to certain situations to ensure their conduct meets the standard of behaviour expected of teachers in their relationships with students.

[Professional Boundaries: A Guideline for Queensland Teachers \(PDF, 254KB\).](#)

Professional boundaries video resources

Rachel Drew, a partner from law firm Holding Redlich, spoke with the QCT about the difficulties that can sometimes arise for teachers in establishing and maintaining professional boundaries with children and students.

View Rachel's messages in the following three video playlists:

- [Communicating safely on social media](#)
- [Engaging with students](#)
- [Relationships with former students.](#)

Additional resources

Additional resources have been developed to provide Queensland teachers and preservice teachers with a more detailed understanding of how to manage professional relationships with students. Use the resources independently or as a whole staff community.

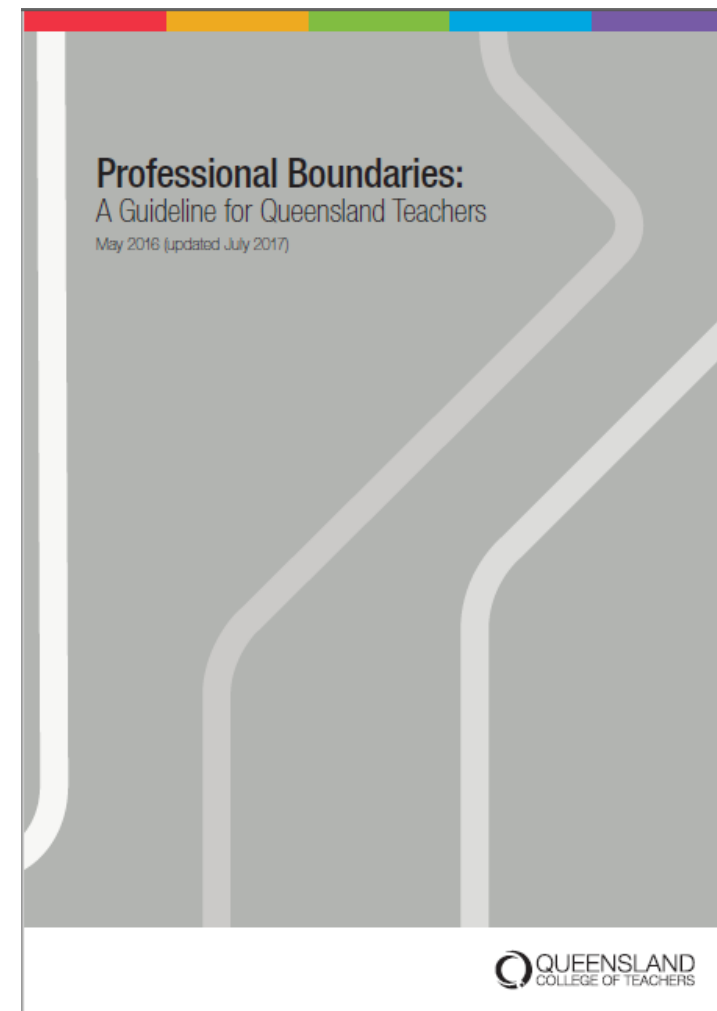
[Facilitator's notes – Understanding the Professional Boundaries Guideline \(PDF, 139KB\)](#)

[Scenarios for Understanding the Professional Boundaries Guideline \(PDF, 54KB\)](#)

[Powerpoint Show - QCT Professional Boundaries \(45.2MB\)](#)

[QCT Professional Boundaries \(PDF, 7.1KB\)](#)

[Professional Boundaries web conference recording](#)





Professional Conduct Unit

- Investigation of teacher practice and conduct
- Complaints against teachers
- Compliance with the Act
- Teacher competence dismissals

Social Media

Lewis Jensen is a Year 6 teacher. Jake is one of his students.

Mr Jensen shares with the class that he likes gaming, and has a Twitch channel.

Jake finds Mr Jensen's Twitch channel and views a live stream. Jake writes a chat message saying 'Hello Sir, its Jake from class'. Mr Jensen gives Jake a shout out during the live stream.

Jake views Mr Jensen's gaming handle, and sends him an invite to join an online game with him, which Mr Jensen does. While playing they engage in generalised voice-to-voice chat.

Social Media - Negative consequences for the student and the student's family

- Potential for oversharing of personal information
- Confusion about the teacher's role
- Student attachment to teacher
- Development of a special relationship
- Behavioural problems
- Peer resentment
- Perception of favouritism

Social Media - Negative consequences for the teacher

- Exposure of personal information
- Relating to a student as a peer instead of as his teacher
- Damage to his reputation and position of authority
- Increased behaviour problems from students
- Breach of employer policy → possible disciplinary action
- Complaint or notification to QCT → possible disciplinary action

Social Media - Negative consequences for the school and teaching profession

- Community and media interest in teacher-student relationships
- Damage to the school's reputation
- Damage to the public's trust in the teaching profession
- Damage to the school morale
- Damage to professional relationships within the school



Social Media

- Social media connection can easily lead to overfamiliarity and possible escalation of inappropriate conduct.
- Teachers should familiarise themselves with their employer's social media policies.
- Any social media communication/interaction with students on an unauthorised platform and/or without a valid context would likely be a breach of professional boundaries.
- The behaviour generally expected of a teacher extends to their private personal digital presence.
- This may extend to former students, even once they become adults.

Relationships with former students

Meg June is a secondary IDT teacher. Harry was a student at the same school, but Miss June was not one of his teachers.

Around the time of Harry's Year 12 graduation, Miss June and Harry became Facebook friends.

After graduating, Miss June and Harry exchanged Snapchat details and began chatting while Harry is at Schoolies. After Schoolies they began seeing each other.

A couple of months later they entered into a sexual relationship.



Yes



No



Maybe



QCAT disciplinary outcome

- Miss June's teacher registration was cancelled.
- Miss June was prohibited from reapplying for teacher registration for four years.
- Any application for re-registration must be accompanied by a detailed and independent psychologist's report.



QCAT findings

Queensland College of Teachers v Teacher XBW [2019] QCAT 240

'By virtue of a teacher's position...disparities in age, maturity and life experience, and the inherent vulnerability of young people, there is a power imbalance between teachers and students which must not be exploited. In respect of former students, this power imbalance continues after the student finishes school. It takes time to dissipate.'

Queensland College of Teachers v PPK [2019] QCAT 59

'...the differences in power and authority which exist create an imbalance between the teacher and student which can continue even after the teacher or student leaves the school. The imbalance can last for some time and is not generally something that can be immediately extinguished at a particular point in time.'

Allegations involving former students

- Intimate/sexual relationships with former students will always be considered by PCU.
- There is no prescribed time period that allows for relationships with former students.



Conduct involving former students

Factors taken into account when considering the conduct include, but are not limited to:

- years since former student left school
- age difference between former student and teacher
- nature of the teacher/student relationship when at school
- vulnerability of the former student
- emotional/social maturity of the former student
- contact/communication between teacher and former student since leaving school

Resources



Relationships with former students

4 videos • 1,844 views • Last updated on Apr 14, 2019







Holding Redlich Brisbane Partner Rachel Drew discusses the importance of knowing and understanding your professional boundaries as a Queensland registered teacher.



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SUBSCRIBE

-  **The power imbalance between teachers and students**
Queensland College of Teachers
1:58
-  **Relationships with former students**
Queensland College of Teachers
1:57
-  **Scenarios of relationships with former students**
Queensland College of Teachers
2:20
-  **Tips for teachers when relating to former students**
Queensland College of Teachers
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Applying for teacher registration

myQCT



Quality regulation – quality teachers

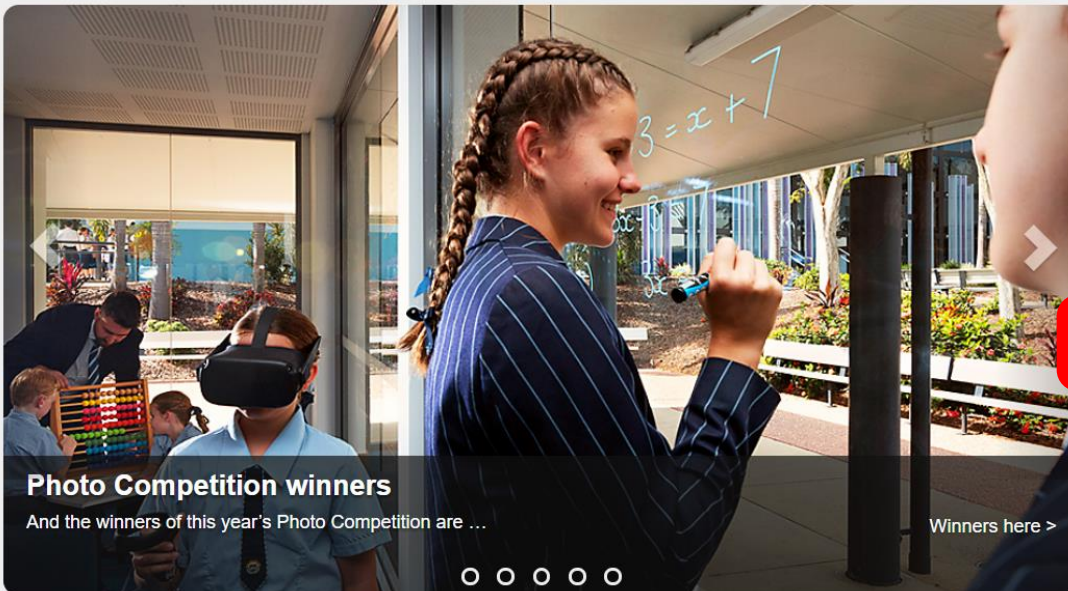


Photo Competition winners

And the winners of this year's Photo Competition are ...

Winners here >

Teachers

Provisionally registered

Everything you need to know about provisional registration, including steps to becoming fully registered, resources to help you, and more.

Applicants

Are you interested in teaching in Queensland? Find out about the qualifications required for registration, how to apply, registration fees, and other relevant information.

Employers

Check registration of teachers, find out how to deal with complaints about teachers, check your reporting obligations, find out how to assist teachers to progress to full registration, and more.

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Filmpod



Digital Portfolios



Tweets by @TheQCT



QldCollegeof1
@TheQCT



Registration

Types of registration ▼

Applicants ▲

Applying for
registration

Application process

Eligibility requirements ▼

Preservice teachers
and recent graduates

Mutual recognition

Applicants without
prescribed
qualificationsTransition to full
registration ▼

Registration conditions

Fees

Applying for registration

To teach in a Queensland school you must be approved to teach.

To qualify for registration you need to meet the eligibility requirements or hold current teacher registration in another Australian state or territory, or New Zealand (mutual recognition).

(School-based, employment-based, or alternative certification routes into teaching do not meet the qualification requirement for teacher registration in Queensland, in these circumstances please contact the QCT before applying.)

[Find out more about eligibility requirements.](#)

[Find out more about mutual recognition.](#)

You must apply for registration online via your myQCT account. Login and complete the Application for teacher registration. The process requires you to submit supporting documentation, and pay the required fees.

Application steps, fees and timeframes



Personal details

☐ No First name

First name

Surname

Date of birth

dd/mm/yyyy



Account details

Email address

Confirm email address

Password

Confirm password



CANCEL



SUBMIT



Applications

Current

Application	Status	Action
Application for teacher registration	Submitted to QCT	View application status



My Application

Agreement

Approval to Teach

Personal Details

Identification

Contact Details

EEO Details

Qualifications

School Appointment

Teaching Experience

Eligibility for Full Registration

Overseas Residency

Declarations

Blue Card

Checklist

Apply







Validate

Agree to Terms


Next Steps

Your online application has been received by the QCT.

Please pay the required fee and complete the next steps:

-  Check your Inbox and locate your submission confirmation email.
-  Read the email carefully and follow all instructions.
-  Open and read all attachments to the email.
-  Print out the checklist attachment. This will provide full details of the documents you will need to send to the QCT.
-  Print out the *Confirmation Page* attached to the email, sign and date it.
-  Post the signed *Confirmation Page* to the QCT with certified copies of all required documents as specified on your checklist. The postal address is included in the email.

Please note:

 **Assessment of your application will not commence until the QCT receives your *Confirmation Page* and all required documents, and your fee payment has been received and processed.**

Pay Application Fees

View Application Status

Resend Confirmation Email

← Previous

Next →



Dear [REDACTED]

Your online application for teacher registration has been submitted to the QCT.

To complete the application process you will need to:

1. Open and read all attachments to this email.
2. Read the checklist attachment carefully. This provides full information about the documents that are required to support your application.
3. Print out the *Confirmation Page*.
4. Post the signed *Confirmation Page* and all required documents, to the QCT at:

Queensland College of Teachers
GPO Box 702
BRISBANE QLD 4001

5. If required, apply for international police record checks through the QCT's preferred supplier, the [RISQ Group](#).
6. Pay your application fee.
You can pay the amount due of \$ [REDACTED] using one of the payment methods listed below:

Online

Pay online through the myQCT payment portal. This is a secure payment method provided through the Commonwealth Bank's online payment service. To make your payment, please log in to your [myQCT account](#) and select *Pay fees*.

BPay

Contact your participating financial institution to make a payment directly from your cheque or savings account or with your MasterCard or Visa card.

Biller Code: [REDACTED]

Reference No: [REDACTED]

Amount: \$ [REDACTED]



Application progress tracker

Application for teacher registration

Assessment of your application will only commence after we receive full fee payment and your hard copy documentation, including your signed *Confirmation Page*.

Information about processing times

^ Hard copy

^ Fee


^ Verification


^ Professional requirements


^ Suitability to teach

View application

Your application cannot be amended online.

 If you are concerned about one of your answers, send an email to regoffs@qct.edu.au explaining your concern.

 BACK

 VIEW



A short video about the application process



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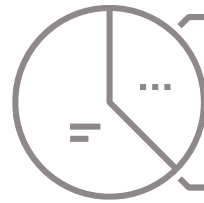
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Please provide feedback, your opinion matters



<http://tiny.cc/QCTP>





Phone

07 3377 4777

or

1300 720 944

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Professional Standards Unit

Queensland College of
Teachers

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Brisbane Qld 4001

Email

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