

TEACH FOR AUSTRALIA

Policy adopted by AEU joint
primary and secondary sector council,
May 2009

AEU Victorian Branch
Policy Document

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That the AEU re-asserts its commitment to ensuring that Victorian students are educated by qualified teachers who have completed an accredited teacher education qualification.

The AEU notes the Federal Government's recent launch of the "Teach for Australia" initiative to be implemented in Victorian schools in 2010 which will supposedly "attract the best and brightest university graduates into the nation's classrooms".

The AEU Joint Primary and Secondary Sector Council objects in the strongest possible terms to the Minister for Education Julia Gillard's statement that "Pathways programs for top graduates (in the UK and US) ... have been shown to deliver better student outcomes and help raise the status of the profession", as research by Linda Darling-Hammond (2005) shows this is clearly not the case.

That the Joint Primary and Secondary Sector Council believes that a program such as Teach for Australia should include the following elements:

1. Participants must be granted Permission to Teach prior to commencing the program, as required by the Victorian Institute of Teaching;
2. Participants are required to complete the educational qualifications for full registration within the two years of the Teach for Australia program;
3. The program is fully resourced to provide: (i) a reduced teaching load for the participant; and (ii) a program of mentoring that includes a reduced teaching load for the mentor.
4. Employment is consistent with the appropriate Certified Agreement.



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