

## Limited Registration: English Language Policy

### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the English language requirements for applications for Limited Registration with the Teacher Registration Board (TRBWA).

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all applications for Limited Registration. To be eligible for Limited Registration a person must meet English language requirements. The TRBWA may not grant Limited Registration unless it is satisfied that this requirement is met.

This policy does not address the English language requirements for Full, Provisional and Non-Practising Registration, which is the subject a separate policy (English Language Policy)

The policy applies to all TRBWA staff and Board members involved in the administration and assessment of applications for Limited Registration.

#### Definitions:

**Nominee:** A 'nominee' is a person who satisfies the statutory requirements for Limited Registration and has been offered a teaching position. The person responsible for completing and submitting this form is the employer or a delegate who is authorised to hire teaching staff.

**Applicant:** The employer. The employer will usually be the Department of Education, the Catholic Education Office or the school's governing body.

### 3. Background

For Limited Registration, the English language requirements are prescribed in regulation 11 of the *Teacher Registration (General) Regulations 2012*. The nominee must demonstrate that one of the following five requirements are met:

#### Either:

The nominee has, within the period of 2 years before the application for registration under section 10 is made —

- (a) undertaken an International English Language Testing System (Academic) test and achieved —
  - (i) an average of level 7.5 or more across the 4 components of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and
  - (ii) no score below level 7 in any of those components; and
  - (iii) a score of level 8 or more in the components of speaking and listening;

or

- (b) undertaken a Professional English Assessment for Teachers test and achieved Band A in each of the components of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

**Or:**

The nominee has undertaken all of the components of a requirement under regulation 12(2), as are relevant to the application, in the English language in one or more of the following countries —

- (a) Australia;
- (b) New Zealand;
- (c) the United Kingdom;
- (d) the United States of America;
- (e) Canada;
- (f) the Republic of Ireland.

**Or:**

If the teaching position is to teach, or to teach in, a language other than English, the nominee has —

- (a) within the period of 2 years before the application for registration under section 10 is made, undertaken a test referred to in subregulation (2)(a) or (b); and
- (b) achieved a result that the Board is satisfied is sufficient for the nominee to adequately perform the duties of the teaching position.

**Or**

In the opinion of the Board —

- (a) exceptional circumstances exist in relation to the nominee; and
- (b) the nominee's English language skills, both written and oral, are suitable for registration.

**Or**

If the teaching position is to teach, or to teach in, an Indigenous language —

- (a) the nominee is an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander; and
- (b) the nominee has informed the Board in writing that the nominee is satisfied that the nominee's English language skills are suitable for the teaching position.

## **4. Policy**

### **4.1 Meeting the requirement through IELTS or PEAT**

The required results of an IELTS or PEAT test must be achieved in one sitting.

### **4.2 Meeting the requirement through undertaking a qualification in English in a prescribed country.**

An nominee who can demonstrate that they have undertaken, and successfully completed, all components of a qualification in English in one of the prescribed countries, will meet the English language requirements.

The qualifications are:

- An accredited initial teacher education program
- A teaching qualification
- A university qualification which is relevant to the teaching position

### 4.3 Meeting the requirement for teachers of, or in, a language other than English

A nominee who has been offered a position to teach, or to teach in, a language other than English (LOTE) may demonstrate the requisite English language skills if they have achieved an IELTS or PEAT result that the Board is satisfied is sufficient to undertake the duties of the teaching position.

The TRBWA has determined that the following would be sufficient for the purposes of this provision:

(a) An IELTS test result with:

- (i) an average of level 6 or more across the four components of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and
- (ii) no score below level 5.5 in any of those components; and
- (iii) a score of level 6.5 or more in the components of speaking and listening;

Or

(b) A Professional English Assessment for Teachers (PEAT) test and achieved Band A in each of the components of listening, speaking, reading and writing

A PEAT or IELTS test result which does not meet the above level *may* be determined to be sufficient where it is supported by a declaration from the school principal stating that the person's test result and the person's English language ability is sufficient to adequately perform the duties of the teaching position.

Where the TRBWA or a former Western Australian teacher registration authority has approved a person's IELTS results as sufficient for LOTE Limited Registration (or LOTE Limited Authority to Teach), then those results, for that particular person, would continue to be deemed to be 'sufficient' for registration.

### 4.4 Exceptional Circumstances

An nominee who does not meet the English language requirements through testing or completing a teaching qualification in an English speaking country as approved by the Board, may submit evidence of exceptional circumstances. Evidence must be submitted in support of the exceptional circumstances claim.

The 'exceptional circumstances' avenue of meeting English language requirements does not operate to lower the language requirements for limited registration. It is intended to apply to those nominees who, although not able to meet requirements under other categories, clearly demonstrate sufficient English language to be registered as a teacher.

The Board may grant the nominee exceptional circumstances if in the opinion of the board

- exceptional circumstances exist in relation to the nominee; and
- the nominee's English language skills, both written and oral, are suitable for registration.

The exceptional circumstances provision is intended to address circumstances where to require a person to undertake a formal test of English proficiency would be unreasonable having regard to the nominee's native, near native or fluent level of English.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors the TRBWA may take into account when considering a claim of exceptional circumstances:

- the extent of the nominee’s period of study in English
- the extent of any English or English Literature units completed as part of their study
- the extent of the nominee’s experience of teaching in English and the ability to demonstrate having met professional standards
- whether work experience relied on was undertaken in English
- the result of any previous IELTS/PEAT test completed **more** than two years prior to applying to the TRBWA
- the quality of any references produced including evidence of the relevant authority and knowledge of the referee(s)
- any other information the Board considers appropriate.

Exceptional circumstances will not be accepted by the Board if to do so would put at risk the professional, competent and safe practice of teaching by the registered teacher.

The TRBWA may require an interview with the nominee in order to assess English language suitability.

A recommendation to refuse an exceptional circumstances application is to be referred to the Board for decision.

#### 4.5 Meeting the requirement for teachers of, or in, an indigenous language

A nominee who has been offered a position to teach, or to teach in, an indigenous language may demonstrate the requisite English language skills if they are an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander and the employer or school has advised the Board that the person has sufficient English language skills.

The employer or school must advise the Board in writing.

#### 4.6 Delegations

The Director is delegated the authority to approve exceptional circumstances. The Director shall consider the documentation submitted relating to both the existence of exceptional circumstances and the suitability of the nominees English language.

### 6. Supporting information

- *Teachers Registration Act 2012*
- *Teacher Registration (General) Regulations 2012*

### 7. Change History

Approved	Version	Details	Approved By
16/5/2013	1	New Policy Issued	Board
07/04/15	1.1	Nominee and applicant definitions added	Director
Next Review Date		16/5/2015	