

Consideration of Sufficient Reasons for Renewal of Registration Policy

POL21

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on what the Board considers to be 'sufficient reasons' in the context of the renewal of Provisional and Full Registration.

The term 'sufficient reasons' applies to both:

- renewal of Provisional Registration, generally; and
- professional engagement and professional learning requirements for the renewal of both Provisional and Full Registration.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all applications to renew Provisional and Full Registration.

3. Background

The *Teacher Registration Act 2012* (Act) requires all teachers who are teaching in schools and other educational institutions in Western Australia to be registered with the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia (Board).

Teacher registration is generally granted for a specific period in the first instance (up to five years for Full Registration), and most categories of teacher registration may be renewed.

It is generally expected, however, that those granted Provisional Registration (Graduate Teacher) and Provisional Registration (Returning Teacher) will not remain in Provisional Registration but rather, will transition to Full Registration through the demonstration of the *Professional Standards for Teachers in Western Australia* (Professional Standards) at the Proficient Career Stage. Accordingly, Provisional Registration (both Graduate and Returning Teacher) may only be renewed by the Board where it is considered that 'sufficient reasons' exist.

Section 22(2)(c) of the Act also provides for requirements that must be satisfied before the Board may renew teacher registration. These include:

- professional engagement requirements; and
- professional learning requirements.

These requirements for each category of registration are prescribed in the *Teacher Registration (General) Regulations 2012* (Regulations).

Where the requirements for professional engagement or professional learning have not been met, the Board may only renew a teacher's registration if, in the opinion of the Board, 'sufficient reasons' exist.

4. Policy

4.1 Sufficient reasons for the renewal of teacher registration

4.1.1 Sufficient reasons

For the purpose of this policy, “sufficient reasons” referenced in 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 below may include:

- serious illness of the teacher, a family member, or a person for whom the teacher is the primary carer;
- hospitalisation or an emergency that renders the individual unable to meet their obligations;
- extended leave of absence due to reasonably unforeseeable circumstances; or
- maternity or paternity related leave.

4.1.2 Renewal of Provisional Registration – Professional Standards

Provisional Registration is granted for an initial period of three years.

During this time, it is expected that a teacher holding Provisional Registration will work towards meeting the Professional Standards at the Proficient Career Stage and, accordingly, be in a position to transition to Full Registration.

There may, however, be reasons why a teacher is unable to meet the Professional Standards requirements to transition to Full Registration.

In such cases, the Board will consider whether there are ‘sufficient reasons’ to renew a person’s Provisional Registration, to afford them additional time to meet the Professional Standards requirement for the grant of Full Registration.

In respect of all questions of ‘sufficient reasons’, the Board will consider each case on its merits and will have regard to the particulars of the applicant’s situation.

4.1.3 Renewal of Registration – professional engagement and professional learning

For the renewal of any category of registration, a teacher must meet professional engagement and professional learning requirements. These requirements are intended to ensure an ongoing currency of practice and are prescribed in the Regulations.

Regulation 13 requires applicants for renewal of registration to have, in the preceding period of registration, taught at an educational institution for a minimum number of days and undertaken a minimum number of hours of professional development.

A person who has not completed the required professional engagement and/or professional learning may not be granted the renewal of teacher registration unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are ‘sufficient reasons’ for those requirements not to apply.

In respect of all questions of ‘sufficient reasons’, the Board will consider each case on its merits and will have regard to the particulars of the applicant’s situation.

4.2 Further considerations - professional engagement requirements

The professional engagement requirement for the renewal of registration is demonstrated by the number of days that a registered teacher has taught in an educational institution during their current period of registration.

As defined in section 3 of the Act, teaching at an educational institution means to undertake the delivery of an educational program and the assessment of student participation in an educational program or to lead the delivery of such a program and the assessment of student participation within it.

Therefore, activity undertaken by registered teachers in education roles based in settings other than educational institutions is not considered to be teaching and accordingly, does not count towards meeting the professional engagement requirement for the renewal of teacher registration.

In certain circumstances, however, the Board may take into account a person's engagement in roles, which although are not teaching as per the definition in the Act, are considered to be substantially equivalent. Such roles would include teaching in an overseas school, in another Australian jurisdiction or Vocational Education and Training (VET) trainers delivering VET in schools.

Periods of time engaged in other roles that are ancillary to teaching, such as teacher educators in universities, tutors, officers of employers/sector heads/unions or education officers based in settings other than educational institutions under the Act are generally not considered to be teaching for the purposes of professional engagement requirements for the renewal of registration.

5. Supporting information

Professional Engagement (for the Renewal of Registration) Policy

Making an Application for Registration Policy

Professional Learning Activities (for the Renewal of Registration) Policy

Professional Standards Policy

Professional Standards for Teachers in Western Australia

Feedback and Complaints Policy

Privacy Policy

6. Change History

Approved	Version	Details	Approved By
11/03/2015	1.0	New policy issued	Board
03/08/2015	1.1	References to Regulations updated	Director
4/12/2023	2.0	Updated to align with amended Act	Board
Next Review Date		3 years	Board