QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASSIFICATION AS A PRIMARY TEACHER IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

AND

RECOGNITION OF A PRIMARY TEACHER WITH A SPECIALISATION IN LANGUAGES IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

January 1997
PREFACE

The Qualification Requirements for Classification as a Primary Teacher in the New South Wales Department of Education and Training and Recognition of a Primary Teacher with a Specialisation in Languages in the New South Wales Department of Education and Training will be of significance to schools, higher education institutions and prospective teacher education students. It includes information on the requirements for:

1. the classification of primary teachers; and
2. the recognition of primary teachers with a specialisation in languages.

These requirements have been approved by the Director-General of Education and Training.

The Qualification Requirements for Classification as a Primary Teacher in the New South Wales Department of Education and Training which are outlined in this document replace the existing Requirements for Classification of Primary Teachers (as amended 4 May 1993). There are five methods for gaining classification as a primary teacher. The date of effect for gaining classification as a primary teacher through Methods 2, 3, 4 and 5 is 31 January 1997. Classification through Method 1 for a course of study involving a degree and Diploma of Education or Master of Teaching will apply to all students who apply for employment from 1 January 1999.

The Recognition of a Primary Teacher with a Specialisation in Languages in the New South Wales Department of Education and Training introduces a number of pathways that will enable primary teachers with training, skills and experience in teaching languages to be recognised as primary teachers with a specialisation in languages. The five methods of gaining classification as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages identified in this document are effective from 31 January 1997.

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QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
CLASSIFICATION AS A PRIMARY TEACHER
IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the classification of primary teachers in the New South Wales Department of Education and Training.

The guidelines take into account changing curriculum requirements, requests from higher education institutions and students for advice regarding areas of study and a need for flexibility in teacher classification. The guidelines are consistent with the Qualification Requirements for the New Areas of Teaching and the Senior Years of Schooling in New South Wales Government Schools.

The information contained in this document will enable: higher education institutions to guide students regarding appropriate studies; students to maximise their employment prospects through their subject choices; and Departmental staff to assess applications for employment as a primary teacher.

2 METHODS OF GAINING CLASSIFICATION AS A PRIMARY TEACHER

Five methods through which classification as a primary teacher can be gained have been identified. Combinations of these methods are acceptable and in some cases necessary. The first two methods apply specifically to people wishing to gain employment as a primary teacher in New South Wales Government schools. The third and fourth methods apply to secondary teachers wishing to gain classification as primary teachers and the fifth method provides for the recognition of skills and prior learning.

Methods of gaining classification as a primary teacher with the New South Wales Department of Education and Training are:

Method 1: Completion of appropriate higher education studies endorsed by the Department for employment purposes.

Method 2: Recognition of qualified teachers from other systems and countries.

Method 3: Completion of approved additional training programs including higher education and Departmental courses.

Method 4: Recognition of current teachers' relevant training, skills and verified experience.

Method 5: Consideration of prior learning, experience and skills in conjunction with other methods of gaining classification eg. advanced standing for further study or attendance at appropriate additional training programs.

3 ELIGIBILITY FOR APPROVAL AS A PRIMARY TEACHER

The primary curriculum consists of a broad range of subjects. Teachers must be able to teach all subjects offered within the curriculum. There are a number of mandatory requirements of primary teachers.
These are:

3.1 From 1996, no primary teacher will be appointed to teach in New South Wales Government schools unless he or she has demonstrated a level of performance in English and mathematics at least equivalent to that required for completion of the relevant 2 unit Higher School Certificate (HSC) subject. Mature age and other students who lack the mandatory English and mathematics requirements will not be employed within New South Wales Government primary schools unless the relevant higher education institution certifies that they have achieved a level of performance in English and mathematics at least equivalent to 2 units in each at HSC level as part of their higher education studies.

3.2 Teacher education qualifications offered by New South Wales higher education institutions must include special education content which is equivalent to a thirteen week unit of special education. This requirement has applied since 1994.

Examples of methods of gaining classification as a primary teacher

**Method 1**

Students completing appropriate higher education courses endorsed by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training for employment purposes who wish to teach in a primary school or a primary department of a central school must have undertaken a relevant integrated degree or a relevant initial degree combined with education studies and methodology. Appropriate education studies and methodology required are outlined in Appendix A.

*Examples:*

1. Completion of a Bachelor of Teaching or Bachelor of Education (Primary) through a higher education institution.

2. Completion of an appropriate Bachelor degree plus a Diploma of Education (with relevant methodology) through a higher education institution, where the subject requirements at Appendix A have been met.

**Method 2**

Current teachers in other systems and teachers with suitable overseas qualifications wishing to be classified as primary teachers eligible for employment in New South Wales Government schools should:

- possess qualifications to teach as a full time primary teacher in another system or possess the entry qualifications required in method 1;
- demonstrate education knowledge and teaching methodology appropriate to working in a primary school or primary department of a central school; and
- possess English language skills suitable for teaching in New South Wales Government schools.
Example: A primary teacher employed in a Catholic school with at least three years of teacher training will be eligible for classification as a primary teacher with the New South Wales Department of Education and Training.

Method 3

Qualified teachers may undertake relevant approved additional training to build on initial qualifications and/or experience in order to be classified as a primary teacher.

Example: A secondary English teacher who has completed a primary retraining course will be eligible for classification as a primary teacher.

Method 4

Experienced teachers who have verified skills and experience in primary subject areas may be eligible for classification as a primary teacher.

Example: A secondary mathematics teacher employed in a central school who has successfully taught in the primary department of the school for the equivalent of two full years will be eligible for classification as a primary teacher.

Method 5

The prior learning, industry experience and skills of people wishing to gain classification as a primary teacher may be acknowledged:

(i) as part of a further credentialling of someone who is already a trained teacher; or

(ii) as part of an advanced standing process in a teacher education program in a higher education institution.

Example: A qualified child care centre employee with experience in caring for and providing educational programs for pre-school age children who has completed appropriate teacher education will be eligible for classification as a primary teacher.

4 DATE OF EFFECT

The date of effect for gaining classification as a primary teacher through Methods 2, 3, 4 and 5 is 31 January 1997. Classification through Method 1 for a course of study involving a degree and Diploma of Education or Master of Teaching will apply to all students who apply for employment from 1 January 1999.
APPENDIX A

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASSIFICATION AS A PRIMARY TEACHER IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Any of the following qualifications awarded by a recognised higher education institution in New South Wales, or qualifications awarded in another state or country which are deemed equivalent, satisfy the qualification requirements for an applicant as a primary teacher provided that the program constitutes at least three years of full time pre-service teacher education studies.

1. Diploma in Teaching (Primary)
2. Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood)*
3. Bachelor of Education (Primary)
4. Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)*
5. Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)
6. Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood)*
7. Bachelor degree and a Diploma of Education or Master of Teaching provided that the degree contains at least one full academic year of study** in four of the following areas,
   OR
   two full academic years of study*** in one area and one full academic year of study** in two other areas listed below.
   a. Mathematics
   b. Science and technology
   c. English
   d. Personal development, health education and physical education
   e. Human society and its environment
   f. Creative arts
   g. A language or languages other than English, information technology, psychology
   h. Education studies

The Diploma of Education or Master of Teaching should include a suitable practicum component and methodology for teaching across the primary syllabuses.
Notes:

* Early childhood teacher education programs are suitable for classification as a primary teacher provided they prepare students to teach students up to the age of at least eight years

** successful completion of a course of study in a subject or key learning area extending over one full academic year at any level

*** successful completion of two sequential courses each extending over one full academic year in the same subject or key learning area
RECOGNITION OF A PRIMARY TEACHER WITH A SPECIALISATION IN LANGUAGES IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the recognition of primary teachers with a specialisation in languages in the New South Wales Department of Education and Training. Where this document refers to qualifications in a language, this means one of the Government's priority languages.

The guidelines take into account the changing curriculum and requests from higher education institutions and students for advice regarding areas of study and a need for flexibility in teacher classification. They are also consistent with the Policy on the employment of teachers with overseas qualifications.

The information contained in this document will enable: current primary teachers to be recognised as primary teachers with a specialisation in languages; higher education institutions to guide students regarding appropriate studies; students to maximise their employment prospects through their subject choices; and Departmental staff to assess applications for employment as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages.

To gain approval as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages the teacher must be an approved primary teacher and must possess English language skills assessed as suitable for teaching in a New South Wales Government school.

In 1997 there are several higher education institutions offering opportunities for those people wishing to be recognised as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages.

These include:

- Charles Sturt University
- University of Newcastle
- University of Western Sydney
- Macquarie University
- University of Sydney

2 METHODS OF GAINING CLASSIFICATION AS A PRIMARY TEACHER WITH A SPECIALISATION IN LANGUAGES

Five methods through which classification can be gained have been identified. The first two methods apply specifically to people wishing to gain employment as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages in New South Wales Government schools. The third method applies to teachers who are already approved to teach in primary schools who wish to specialise in languages and the fourth and fifth methods provide for the recognition of skills and prior learning.

Methods of gaining classification as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages in the New South Wales Department of Education and Training are:

Method 1: Completion of appropriate higher education studies endorsed by the Department for employment purposes ie Bachelor of Education (Primary) which include methodology studies and language content extending over two academic years*. **
Method 2: Recognition of the qualifications of teachers from other systems who wish to gain employment with the New South Wales Department of Education and Training as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages.

Method 3: Completion of approved additional training programs including higher education, TAFE and other Departmental courses.

Method 4: Recognition of current teachers’ relevant training, skills and verified experience.

Method 5: Consideration of prior learning, experience and skills in conjunction with other methods of gaining recognition as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages eg. advanced standing for further study or completion of appropriate additional training programs.

3 ELIGIBILITY TO BE RECOGNISED AS A PRIMARY TEACHER WITH A SPECIALISATION IN LANGUAGES

Examples of methods through which teachers can be recognised as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages

Method 1

Students completing appropriate higher education courses endorsed by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training for employment purposes who wish to be recognised as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages must have undertaken a relevant degree with appropriate primary education studies, methodology studies in languages and two years* of tertiary study of a language they wish to teach.

Examples:
1. Completion of a Department endorsed Bachelor of Education (Primary with languages specialisation) through a higher education institution.
2. Completion of an appropriate Bachelor degree plus a Diploma of Education (Primary) (with relevant methodology and two years* of study of a language) through a higher education institution.

Method 2

Primary teachers employed in other school systems who have qualifications recognised by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training and a specialisation in languages may gain recognition as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages.

Example: A teacher teaching in a Catholic primary school who has completed a Bachelor of Education (Primary) including two years* of study of a language and appropriate methodology studies may be eligible for approval as a primary teacher with a specialisation in the language.
Method 3

Primary teachers with qualifications endorsed by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may undertake relevant approved additional training to build on initial qualifications and/or experience in order to be recognised as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages.

Example: A primary teacher who has completed a higher education institution, TAFE or other Departmental training program equivalent to two years* of study of a language plus language methodology (eg. Primary Languages Intensive Methodology) may be eligible for recognition as a primary teacher with a specialisation in the language.

Method 4

Experienced New South Wales Department of Education and Training primary teachers who have verified skills and experience in teaching a language may be eligible for recognition as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages.

Example: An experienced primary teacher who has been teaching a language in primary schools may be eligible for recognition as a primary teacher with a specialisation in the language.

Method 5

The prior learning, incountry experience and skills of people wishing to be recognised as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages may be acknowledged:

(i) as part of further credentialling;

or

(ii) as part of an advanced standing process in a teacher education program in a higher education institution.

Example: A person from a non English speaking background who completes appropriate primary teacher education with appropriate methodology studies in languages may be eligible for recognition as a primary teacher with a specialisation in languages.

Note:

* successful completion of two sequential courses each extending over a full academic year in the same language

4 DATE OF EFFECT

The guidelines for the recognition of primary teachers with a specialisation in languages are effective from 31 January 1997