

Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education Students

Strong literacy and numeracy skills are an essential requirement in order to be an effective classroom teacher. To ensure that teacher education students have the high level of personal literacy and numeracy skills required of teachers, the Australian Government has recently introduced the Literacy and Numeracy Test for initial teacher education (ITE) students.

The test, to be administered by the Australian Council for Educational Research, is designed to assess elements of an individual's literacy and numeracy skills and will be used to demonstrate that ITE graduates are in the top 30 per cent of the population for literacy and numeracy.

All programs provided by CDU are nationally accredited programs and students are required to meet standards in literacy and numeracy equivalent to the top 30% of the population. The Teacher Registration Board, together with Charles Darwin University (CDU), will ensure that all applicants for ITE programs after 1 January 2017 will meet the new Australian Government requirement.

The Board understands that this is a retrospective requirement for the current group of ITE students. On enrolment, it was not a requirement for this group of students to pay for the test, nor was the program accredited with this requirement in place. Therefore, while we encourage all currently enrolled ITE student teachers to take the test, it will not be mandated for this group of student teachers as a condition of registration.

The test will become a mandatory requirement for all Northern Territory ITE student teachers enrolling in courses from 1 January 2017 as part of the course requirements.

For more information on the test visit www.studentsfirst.gov.au/teacher-quality.