

Early Childhood Teacher Registration

MARCH 2026

Graduates with an ACECQA approved qualification can register to teach in South Australia with a condition limiting teaching to an early childhood setting.

CURRENT NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHER REGISTRATION

The National Framework for Teacher Registration is a nationally consistent framework for the registration of teachers in all states and territories in Australia. Only registered teachers may be employed to teach in schools and early childhood settings.

The National Framework currently provides a minimum qualification requirement for registration as completion of at least four years of higher education (full-time or equivalent) study, including an initial teacher education program accredited in Australia; or an overseas qualification assessed as equivalent.

From 6 June 2024, early childhood teachers who have graduated with an Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority ('ACECQA') approved qualification – with a focus upon 3-year birth-to-five bachelor degrees - will be eligible to be registered as a teacher providing education in an early childhood setting in South Australia.

Please Note: ACECQA approved qualifications **not** accepted are: Graduate Diplomas and Graduate Certificates

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Following the South Australian Government's response to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, the *Teachers Registration and Standards Regulations 2024* have been amended to allow graduates with ACECQA-approved early childhood qualifications to apply for teacher registration with a condition restricting practice to early childhood settings.

This condition will be clearly marked on the Certificate of Registration and noted on the Public Register.

The Condition states:

The holder of this registration is restricted to providing preschool education to children who have not yet attained the compulsory school age at a preschool, a preschool program delivered in a school separate from children who are receiving an education program for compulsory school aged children, a centre-based long day care and out-of-school hours care service.



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WHAT THIS CONDITION MEANS

A teacher with this condition on their registration is limited to teaching in early childhood services including preschools, kindergartens and long day care settings.

Early childhood teachers involved in provision of a dedicated education program, in an out-of-school hours care setting, should also be limited to providing birth-to five, or early childhood education.

HOW DO I APPLY?

By reference to your completed ACECQA approved qualification, you may apply using the standard application for teacher registration, fill in the **form**, provide proof of your qualification, pay a teacher registration fee and undergo the usual fitness checks. You will then be registered. A Certificate of Registration including the condition will be issued and the Public Register of registered teachers will advise others of the condition effect.

COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

Registered teachers must comply with conditions of registration. A person's history of compliance with conditions of registration is also a relevant factor in fit and proper considerations at the time of renewal of their registration.

Conditions of registration are also relevant for employers, who should check the Public Register to ensure they do not appoint, employ, engage or give permission to a registered teacher to teach at an educational institution in contravention of a condition, including where limited to providing education in an early childhood setting.

WHAT IF I'M STUDYING A 4-YEAR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION (ITE) ACCREDITED QUALIFICATION (WHETHER BIRTH-TO-8, OR BIRTH TO-12 STUDIES?)

You can continue your studies. You can seek registration as a teacher, but will not be limited to providing education in an early childhood setting. This condition will not apply to you. You may apply for teacher registration and once granted, be eligible to work across the years of schooling.

IF I'M PART WAY THROUGH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALIFICATION AND HOLD A SPECIAL AUTHORITY TO TEACH (WORKING TOWARDS), CAN I STOP AT THE 3- YEAR EQUIVALENT POINT OF STUDY?

Where particular circumstances need to be considered, you should contact the

Early Childhood Teacher Registration

Registration team at the TRB for advice specific to your situation. You can contact the team via email at:

Earlychildhoodqueries@trb.sa.edu.au

WHO DOES THIS INFORMATION REFER TO?

Early Childhood Teachers, Directors and Centre Managers, Education Sector staff, and employers.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE OR GET HELP?

If you require further information about the information in this fact sheet, please refer to the Board website at www.trb.sa.edu.au

You can also contact a staff member from the Registration team using the email:

Earlychildhoodqueries@trb.sa.edu.au or by phoning 8253 9700

Please note: A Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Teaching or Education of 6 months or 1 year duration are **not** accepted for registration in SA.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED FOR TEACHER REGISTRATION IN SA?

- an Initial Teacher Education (ITE) undergraduate qualification (birth-8, birth-12, primary, secondary) or an ITE

postgraduate qualification with an approved undergraduate qualification.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED FOR A CONDITION TO ONLY TEACH IN AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTING IN SA?

- an ACECQA approved 3-year bachelor early childhood teacher qualification
- an ACECQA approved postgraduate qualification accompanied by an undergraduate qualification (of at least 3 years)
- an approved ACECQA early childhood teaching qualification other than a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma

QUALIFICATION	REGISTRATION OUTCOME
4 year ITE qualification	Teacher reg
ACECQA 3-year (Birth-5) qualification	Teacher reg with a condition
ACECQA postgraduate qualification + ITE undergraduate	Teacher reg
ACECQA postgrad + non-ITE undergraduate	Teacher reg with a condition