

FORUM TO DISCUSS THE 2019 EVALUATION OF ASPECTS OF THE AMEP

co-sponsored by

the Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA)
Sydney School of Education & Social Work (University of Sydney)

and

the School of Education at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

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Item 3: Teacher Qualifications

Four sets of requirements:

1. **DET contractual requirements** to teach in the AMEP (Pre-Employment/Social English streams)
2. **licencing requirements** to teach accredited curricula
3. **ASQA requirements** to teach in the VET sector
4. **Specific College/RTO requirements.**

DET AMEP Requirements

To teach pre-employment stream:

- 1) Australian undergraduate degree or equiv.
- 2) Postgrad. TESOL qual. in adult education

To teach Social English stream:

- 1) Australian undergraduate degree or equiv.
- 2) Enrolled in postgrad. TESOL qual. in adult education.

Licensing Requirements

CSWE, EAL, CSL & CEP all require:

- 1) an undergraduate degree
- 2) Cert IV in TAE

Differences:

1. TESOL qual. requirement:

- ▣ *TESOL qualification* mandatory (CSWE, EAL) *versus*
- ▣ *TESOL experience* as substitute for qual. (CEP) *versus*
- ▣ *TESOL or Adult Literacy experience* as substitute for qual. (CSL).

2. TESOL practicum requirement:

- ▣ *Practicum* mandatory (CSWE & EAL) *versus*
- ▣ *teaching experience* (CSL)
- ▣ *no experience* (CEP)

3. Training in ISLPR & ACSF (CEP)

ASQA:

Cert IV in TAE or ???

Individual Colleges:

Cert IV in TAE or ??

ACTA Survey: Respondents' Qualifications

Cert IV TAE: Yes – 386; No – 43

Highest TESOL Qual.:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Masters in Applied Linguistics or TESOL or higher	33.49%	142
A full Post-graduate Diploma or Degree that specialised in teaching English to speakers of other languages	38.68%	164
A full ESL method in a Diploma/Masters/Bachelor of Education	9.67%	41
The Cambridge Certificate in TESOL (or the RSA Certificate) or higher Cambridge Certificate	3.77%	16
An ESL elective or single unit within a teaching qualification	2.83%	12
I have no specialist TESOL qualification and am not enrolled in one	5.42%	23
I have no specialist TESOL qualification but am enrolled in the following:	6.13%	26
TOTAL		424

ACTA Survey: CERT IV TAE - Example Comments (50)

- ▣ *Obtaining this certificate proved a very taxing exercise. I have a BA in Japanese & Communications, Hons, Grad Dips in Journalism, Applied Linguistics & Teaching English as a Second Language and a Master degree in General & Applied Linguistics, with years of teaching experience in multiple countries at university level as well as in Australia, and trying to have recognition of prior learning was extremely problematic. I paid for an on-line course (\$600) which offered no assistance at all with this....finally insulted and despairing, the time to complete the certificate lapsed. Fortunately a manager at work had previously been in charge of an education provider who issued the various certificates and he knew how to apply the recognition. I had to do only one unit in the end, but I paid another \$600 to finally be given this certification. Without this I would not have been allowed to teach new migrants and refugees which was my strongest interest and heart's desire, but I can't tell you how angry, insulted and frustrated I was having to jump the hoops that it seemed were arrayed against me to actually go on to the teaching work I had most set my heart on. How many other really well qualified and experienced individuals simply give up with the process in disgust?! If the manager hadn't stepped in, I think I might have with many regrets. After so many years of university education and all my experience, I could not stomach not having my prior learning recognised.*

CERT IV TAE (cont.)

- ▣ *Just when I thought I had finished, we now have to do another unit. TAEASS502 Design and Develop Assessment Tools*

versus

- ▣ *I haven't upgraded for 2019 because my employer agrees that ASQA recognises Grad Cert in TESOL as adult teaching qualification for AMEP.*
- ▣ *I feel the TAE is totally irrelevant to teaching in the AMEP; it is not in the best interests of the students we teach to be in the VET sector controlled by requirements that are designed for skills based training.*
- ▣ *Previous AMEP tender stipulations for qualifications required by teachers appeared reasonable. While I understand the necessity of the TAE Cert IV for those in a training environment who have no teacher qualifications or experience it seems an unnecessary imposition for those appropriately qualified and experienced to teach English as an Additional Language. I found getting TAE Cert IV to be a very considerable waste of time, money and effort, with little flow on to what I do as a teacher in AMEP. I would have preferred to expend that time, money and effort for the benefit of the students in our programs. The TAE Cert IV takes little account of the qualifications and experience I already have, and the requirement to keep updating it, to fit in with ASQA dictates, is galling.*

Issues

- 1) **Conflicting requirements** in different jurisdictions coupled with **unclear & conflicting advice**
- 2) **Cert IV in TAE:**
 - redundancy with other superior qualifications
 - upgrades
 - cost
 - TAFE courses versus private RTOs
 - diversion of time (& money) from other more relevant & rewarding PD
- 3) **Adult literacy quals.** as a substitute for TESOL quals.
- 4) **Teaching experience** as a substitute for TESOL qualification
- 5) DET/provider requirement for **adult learning focus**
- 6) **TESOL practicum** requirement in initial qual. /TESOL **teaching experience**
- 7) **Overseas** qualifications
- 8) Reasons for claimed **shortage of TESOL qualified teachers**
- 9) Assumption that **Social English stream requires less qualified teachers.**

▣ *Over to you!*