

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: AITSL

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000036

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 46

AITSL: Aspiring teachers requirements

Question

Ms Evans: The AITSL has a very clear position on this. We believe teaching is a very complex job. We want not only the best people going into teaching but also the people that are likely to be successful. We do know that academic qualities, as well as personal capabilities, are necessary. As we have already discussed, the research identifies academic capability as being a predictor of success in your course. We also know that there are different ways of measuring that. New South Wales has identified a fairly rigorous process and it pertains particularly to New South Wales. No other state has bands.

Senator O'NEILL: Jurisdiction, okay—

Ms Evans: We are supportive of all mechanisms that will increase the calibre and quality of people coming into initial teacher education, recognising that one measure is never going to really predict the success of an individual; it is that combination of academic and non-academic.

Senator O'NEILL: And even this is moving away from a single number to a more sophisticated a register of what competencies might exist. The practical implementation, I am sure, is a bit of a challenge. Do you know the process by which this requirement is administered in the relevant tertiary institutions?

Ms Evans: Only in very high level ways—

Senator O'NEILL: Do you just want to take on notice or perhaps get somebody from that sector to provide—

Mr Cook: We would have to ask New South Wales.

Ms Evans: We would have to ask a New South Wales. We would be happy to do that.

Answer

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) has provided the following response:

To implement the NSW's Band 5 entry requirements institutions will need to ensure that entrants to their undergraduate programs meet the following requirements as outlined on the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) website:

1. achieve at least three Band 5 HSC results, including one in English OR
2. pass bridging units benchmarked to a Band 5 HSC result OR
3. enrol in an accredited degree and pass a full year of academic studies in the subjects you will teach OR
4. complete a BOSTES approved alternative entry pathway as advised by your prospective university.

Accredited undergraduate combined, double or integrated degrees may be approved as meeting condition 3 above. For this approval, courses need to show how their students will meet a minimum academic standard, comparable to three Band 5s, early in the course. This can be achieved by requiring you to pass one year of academic studies in the subjects you will teach, before you study how to teach.

AITSL does not have any further detail on how this operates within individual institutions.