

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Agency: AITSL**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000127**

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

***AITSL: Practical classroom experience***

**Question**

Referring to QON SQ15 – 000693 (Practical classroom experience) from last estimates [ATTACHMENT C]:

- a. You did not answer those questions – can we get an answer here at the table?
- i. Is there any variation on the current minimum number of practicum days?
- ii. What number of practicum days is offered by each institution?
- iii. Can you guarantee that all teacher training courses meet the minimum standard?
- iv. For each institution listed in the QON can you specify the average number of practicum days – undergrad and post grad – that a student teacher gets access to?

**Answer**

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

- i. *The Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education Programs in Australia Standards and Procedures (2015)* set a minimum period for the practicum component of each initial teacher education program. These requirements are:
  - no fewer than 80 days in undergraduate and double-degree teacher education programs
  - no fewer than 60 days in graduate-entry programs.

As such, there are no variations regarding the minimum requirement as jurisdictions have adopted these national standards. The previous *Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education Programs in Australia Standards and Procedures (2011)* also set these requirements as the minimum period for the practicum component of each initial teacher education program

However, there are still some programs that were accredited under the previous state based standards that have not been through a national accreditation. These programs will now be brought into line under the arrangements agreed by Education Council in December 2015.

- ii. AITSL does not have information regarding the number of practicum days offered by each individual institution.
- iii. All programs must provide evidence to show they meet the minimum number of professional experience days as required by the standards in order to receive their accreditation.
- iv. AITSL does not have information regarding the number of practicum days offered by each individual institution.