

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome/Agency **2**

DEEWR Question No. **EW447_10**

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Teach for Australia

“The Education Minister Julia Gillard said in April similar programs to Teach for Australia had been shown to deliver “better student outcomes”. What research is the Federal Government relying on to demonstrate that unqualified teachers deliver better outcomes than those that have a formal teaching qualification?”

Answer

Research on the *Teach for America* (US) program indicates positive impacts on student outcomes, and an evaluation of the *Teach First* (UK) program found that approximately half of the participants achieved the standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) to an outstanding level. More information is provided below.

The Federal Government has not relied on any research based on ‘unqualified’ teacher performance. *Teach for Australia* graduates (‘associates’) will be awarded an accredited university qualification (a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching from the University of Melbourne) and will be eligible for full teacher registration on successful completion of the two-year employment-based training. During their time in schools, associates will have the equivalent of ‘permission to teach’ status and a reduced teaching load to allow for their ongoing training and intensive in-school mentor support and guidance from an Educational Advisor.

Reviews of overseas programs

1. *Teach for America* (US) – A 2007 study of the impact of *Teach for America* (TFA) corps members in secondary schools found that ‘TFA teachers, on average, have a positive effect on high school student test scores relative to non-TFA teachers, including those who are certified in-field’.

Source: http://www.caldercenter.org/upload/TFA_final_v-March-2009.pdf (pg 2).

2. *Teach First* (UK) – A 2008 evaluation found that approximately half of the trainees ‘achieved the Standards for QTS to an outstanding level, a third to a good level, and the others to a satisfactory level’ (p. 4). In addition, these outcomes ‘compare favourably with other good initial teacher training courses’ (p.6).

Source: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Rising-to-the-challenge-a-review-of-the-Teach-First-initial-teacher-training-programme>