DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE STRATEGY
Inclusive Education Specialisation
Foreword

The Tasmanian Government is committed to providing high quality inclusive education for students with disability, and supporting all Tasmanian Government schools to become increasingly disability ready and responsive to meet the needs of all students. We are committed to enabling all students to achieve quality outcomes through their participation in an inclusive, high quality education system through appropriate access and participation in the Australian Curriculum. We aspire to create a culture of high expectations and high achievement in the provision of quality education for learners with disability.

Building the professional capability of the Department of Education’s workforce in inclusive education teaching and learning is a key priority to achieving this goal. Increased knowledge, skills, and teaching practice in inclusive education will enable greater access, participation and engagement of Tasmanian students with disability in quality education.

Over the past three years, a key focus for the Tasmanian Government has been to build quality teaching practices. Since 2015, the Tasmanian Government has worked in strong partnership with the University of Tasmania and the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, to support over 200 teachers to upskill through the Developing our Workforce Strategy. This partnership will continue in 2019, with the Department of Education and the University working in collaboration to upskill our current teachers, and enhance quality teaching practices for students with disability.

In June 2014, the Improved Support for Students with Disability – Ministerial Taskforce Report (the Taskforce) was established, following a commitment during the 2014 election. Key finding and recommendations from the Taskforce include high quality teaching and learning, particularly in the area of inclusive education.

The Inclusive Education Specialisation will continue to be a key investment by the Tasmanian Government. This initiative supports Department of Education teachers to gain an approved post-graduate qualification and give them the knowledge, skills, competence and confidence to deliver high quality inclusive teaching and learning programs.

Since April 2018, Tasmania’s education leaders have been working in collaboration to develop a new strategy for our education workforce, as part of my Future Tasmanian Education Workforce Roundtable. Tasmania’s education leaders have committed to building a nation-leading education system, and to ensure that Tasmania has a skilled and ready education workforce. A key focus area for our new strategy will be to enhance support and professional learning provided to current teachers.

We will continue to work closely with Tasmania’s education leaders, and our current workforce, to build a world-class education system. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to strengthen your professional expertise in inclusive education and continue to support quality educational outcomes for Tasmanian students with disability.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Education and Training
About the initiative

The Teacher Development Initiative is an intensive qualification with University of Tasmanian (UTAS), which supports teachers to develop skills, competence and confidence in inclusive teaching practices for students with disability. By completing this qualification, teachers will gain the skills to support students with diverse needs to access, participate, and engage in education and achieve meaningful outcomes.

After successfully completing four units, participants will graduate with a Graduate Certificate (Inclusive Education).

Who is the program designed for?

This initiative is designed for teachers who are:

- Permanent employees who have a minimum of three years teaching experience.
- Teachers who have a passion for inclusive teaching, particularly in relation to students with disability and diverse needs.

How is it delivered?

This initiative is delivered by the Faculty of Education at UTAS. Through the program, participants will have access to four units through online learning and eight compulsory face-to-face workshop days. The content of the course will be delivered in two blocks of ten weeks duration and will commence early Term 1, 2019.

Participants will teach 0.50 FTE and complete study 0.50 FTE during Term 1 and 2, 2019. Participants will draw on teaching experience to meet study requirements.

The four units include:

- Inclusive Practices in Education Settings
- Educating Students with Dyslexia and Learning Difficulties
- Re-Engaging Disengaged Students
- Educating Students with Multiple Disabilities

What support will I receive?

Successful participants will receive:

- Fee-free UTAS course, four (4) units
- Free textbooks
- Travel assistance to attend face-to-face days
- 0.50 FTE time release for up to 20 weeks to complete academic units, including attendance at face-to-face workshops, in Terms 1 and 2

Please note that all participants are required to sign a Funding Agreement committing to meet the obligations including that the Course is completed in the time allocated.

Why is this initiative being offered?

The Department recognises that a highly skilled workforce is key to achieving our Learners First commitment to inspire and support all learners to succeed as connected, resilient, creative and curious thinkers.

Teachers are one of our biggest predictors of student success, and therefore highly qualified teachers in inclusive education are critical to our achievement of this commitment and improving student learning outcomes.
Expression of Interest Closing
23 November 2018

To express an interest visit the PLI website at https://pli.education.tas.gov.au/program/teacher-development-initiative-inclusive-education-specialisation/

Documents required to complete your Expression of Interest are:

- Curriculum Vitae (1 page) outlining work history and TRB number.
- Endorsement Form (completed by you current principal or supervisor endorsing participation)
- Performance and Development Plan (PDP), which identifies goals related to participation within the initiative.

Contact

For further information contact Workforce Development at workforce.development@education.tas.gov.au