

# National Teacher Workforce Action Plan

2026 UPDATE



The Australian Government, together with states, territories, non-government education authorities and other stakeholders, has made significant progress in the implementation of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan (Action Plan) since its inception in 2022. As of February 2026, implementation of the Action Plan is almost complete, with the remaining actions expected to be delivered throughout the year. Progress on the delivery of each action can be found on the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan webpage: [www.education.gov.au/national-teacher-workforce-action-plan](http://www.education.gov.au/national-teacher-workforce-action-plan)

While the impact of these actions on the teacher workforce will continue to be observed in the years to come, recent data reflects positive trends in attracting and retaining teachers across the country.



## More people are choosing to study teaching

The number of people studying to become a school teacher is growing. Early data show that domestic applications to study undergraduate teaching in 2026 have increased 6.5% and domestic undergraduate university offers have increased 6.3% compared to 2025.<sup>1</sup>

Preliminary data also show the number of domestic students commencing an Initial Teacher Education (ITE) degree increased 9% between 2024 to 2025. This adds to the 10% increase in commencements between 2023 to 2024.<sup>2,3</sup>

## More graduate teachers are entering and staying in the profession

Most students who complete ITE are employed as teachers within six months of graduation. In 2024, 74% of ITE graduates were employed as a teacher 4 to 6 months after graduation compared to 69% in 2021.<sup>4</sup>

More graduate teachers are now also staying in the profession for at least three years. Data show 85% of ITE graduates who commenced working as a teacher in 2021 were still employed as a teacher three years later in 2024.<sup>5</sup> This is an improvement on those commencing teaching in 2019, where 82% were retained three years later.

## The teacher workforce continues to grow

The number of schools teachers is also increasing – and student-teacher ratios have decreased. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that teacher numbers increased by 8,314 between 2023 and 2024. In addition, student-teacher ratios have decreased from 13.9 students per teacher in 2015 to 12.9 students per teacher in 2024.

The Australian Government continues to work closely with states and territories to deliver outcomes for the teaching professional. All states and territories have committed to a suite of national reform directions under the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement, including building on existing efforts to create a strong and sustainable workforce.

<sup>1</sup> University Applications and Offers Collection- Preliminary data collected from Tertiary Admissions Centres as at 15 January each year, Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> Higher Education Statistics Collection- Student data, Department of Education.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary 2025 data are subject to change. Final data are expected to be available in the third quarter of 2026.

<sup>4</sup> Based on responses to the [Graduate Outcomes Survey \(qilt.edu.au\)](http://qilt.edu.au), Department of Education.

<sup>5</sup> Based on responses to the [Graduate Outcomes Survey – Longitudinal \(qilt.edu.au\)](http://qilt.edu.au), Department of Education.