

Mutual Recognition Schemes
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East
Melbourne Victoria 8003

The Teachers Registration Board of South Australia (the Board) works closely with the Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities (ATRA) to implement the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 and Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997. The Board feels the scheme is working well across the country and teachers are able to transition across jurisdictions effectively and efficiently.

While legislation varies across jurisdictions, the sharing of policies and procedures for registration and accreditation of teachers has and will continue to the building of national consistency. This has significantly reduced any concerns about shopping and hopping.

Changes to legislation for the accreditation requirements of teachers in New South Wales being introduced in 2018 is a positive step forward which will significantly benefit teacher's mobility.

The Board strongly supports the ongoing professional development of teachers as part of renewal of their registration and also the need to continue to conduct our own background checks on teachers seeking registration under Mutual Recognition.

Teachers have a significant role in the education and care of all children and young people. The broader community has expectations of the teaching profession which must be maintained and upheld by all teachers. The Mutual Recognition scheme will continue to be an effective framework while all individuals registered are subject to the same ongoing requirements of all licence holders.

The Board would participate in any further consideration of "automatic mutual recognition" if it were considered in relation to teachers. There would be a minimal number of teachers working across borders on a regular basis with most teachers moving interstate permanently. The Board must know who is teaching in our jurisdiction and it is imperative that our legislative requirements are met by all teachers employed to teach children and young people in South Australia.

The Board has an ongoing commitment to upholding the principles of the mutual recognition of teachers and looks forward to the opportunity to comment on any future development of the MRA and TTRMA.

Yours sincerely

Teachers Registration Board of South Australia

3 August 2015