



# Expectations for Practicum Supervisors

This document is issued for general guidance only. It does not constitute professional advice. The issues with which it deals are complex and the document necessarily deals only with general principles. No reader should rely on this document for the purpose of making a decision as to action but should seek the appropriate advice from the Union on the particular circumstances of that reader. The Union accepts no responsibility for the consequences should any person act in reliance on this document without obtaining the appropriate advice from the Union.

The Practicum Supervisor is a voluntary role undertaken by teachers to supervise and support a student teacher during their school-based practicum.

## What is Required?

The duties of a practicum supervisor are listed in clause 4 of the *Practice Teaching State Schools Industrial Agreement 1992*.

Most universities will provide guidance concerning their individual requirements and expectations. This is usually provided in a handbook. Most request that the Practicum Supervisor should assist the student teacher:

- in understanding and using curriculum documents;
- in developing understandings of curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and reporting;
- in understanding classroom students' varied approaches to learning and catering for individual differences;
- in teacher-student interaction and classroom management, particularly the school's behaviour management policy;
- in understanding student portfolios;
- in self-reflection and evaluation of their work against the Professional Standards for Queensland Teachers (Graduate Level);
- by giving regular constructive feedback and providing a written assessment of the preservice teacher's progress to the university.

## QTU Position

- Supervision of student teachers is voluntary.
- Payment for coordination and supervision of fieldwork must be in accordance with the current industrial agreement (viz. *Practice Teaching in State Schools Industrial Agreement, 1992*).
- Within the quantum of the current agreement, individual teachers should have the option to negotiate payment to be in a form of a cash payment, TRS release for professional purposes, or HECS/fee discounts. However the payment or benefit must always be made directly to the teacher, not to the school.
- Universities and employers should provide full and comprehensive support for teachers volunteering to supervise a student teacher.
- Employers should recognise and acknowledge the contribution that these teachers make to ongoing workforce renewal.

## Further References

See handbook for practicum supervisors provided by relevant university.

*Practice Teaching in State Schools Industrial Agreement, 1992.*

Professional Standards for Queensland Teachers (Graduate Level), Queensland College of Teachers.