



Dear Principals

It is very late in the school year for me to be contacting you in regards to changes to the Schools Registration Board personnel and processes. As you are aware, we had a rather uncertain end to 2014 and significant changes to Board membership as late as March this year. On top of that, we have had to seek the appointment of a new Registrar. I do, however, apologise for the failure to communicate sooner.

Changes to the Board

The Minister has appointed the following members to the Board:

Jenny Cranston – Chairperson

John Green and Tony Crehan- representing registered schools (through Independent Schools Tasmania)

Jill Morgan – nominated by Catholic Education

Katharine O’Donnell – employee of the Department of Education (new member)

Ann Roberts and Michael Cole – representing teachers in registered schools (both new members)

Greg Boon – representing parents of children in registered schools (new member).

I welcome the new members to the Board and am confident they will continue to add value to the work of the SRB and its registration of non–government schools.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of the departed members – Angela Briant, Judy Travers, Gillian Unicomb and Ian Dalton – whom many of you would have had an involvement with over the years as they reviewed individual schools.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce a new Registrar for the SRB, Ms Kerry Brown. I am sure Kerry will endeavour to assist you in whatever way she can.

Changes to the Standards and other requirements

In April 2015, the Minister determined Standards that must be complied with in order for schools to be registered. These are outlined in the new April 2015 Handbook (from page 33). While not significantly different from the previous Standards, there are some additional requirements of which you should be aware.

Complementing the Standards, the SRB has developed Board Instructions that explicitly outline what documentation should be provided by schools in order to address each Standard.

In the past schools, have responded to the Standards in different ways. The aim of the Board Instructions is to provide clarity around the documentation so that schools are in no doubt about what a registration review team will take into account in looking at compliance. These transparent Board Instructions are intended to make life easier, not more difficult, for those schools undertaking registration reviews.

It has come to our attention that some schools undertaking registration reviews in 2015 may not have looked at the April 2015 Handbook. If this is the case, and a school is a significant way through the submission process, they will not be disadvantaged if the documentation specified has not been provided.

Changes to SRB processes

The April 2015 Handbook also outlines some simplified processes for those undertaking a registration review. The processes are outlined on pages 24 – 32 in the Handbook.

You will notice, for example that only one hard copy of the application submission is required accompanied by an electronic version.

If the quality of the written submission addresses the Standards satisfactorily, only a very short, confirmatory visit to the school may be required, possibly by one reviewer only.

These changed processes are designed to ensure the maintenance of quality in registration reviews but in a more streamlined and efficient manner that will be of benefit to you.

The Board's internal processes have changed too to ensure that schools are notified of the outcome of reviews in a more timely way.

Scheduled schools for Renewal of Registration in 2015

In 2015, there are 20 schools scheduled for renewal of registration reviews. Review teams have already reviewed the submissions of and visited eight schools and I thank principals for their active involvement in the new processes. The remaining schools are scheduled throughout the coming months.

Additionally, the SRB has received two applications for the registration of new schools in Tasmania, with another one flagged as possible.

Summary

My apologies again for the lateness of this communiqué.

Belatedly, I wish you well for the school year and hope that 2015 is a fulfilling and successful year for you, your school, staff and students.

As always, please feel free to contact the Registrar (Kerry Brown on 61655713) or kerry.brown@education.tas.gov.au if you have any issues you wish to discuss.

Best wishes

Jenny Cranston

Chair

Schools Registration Board

26/6/2015