Study to Investigate Effectiveness of Teacher Education

Teacher Education: How effective is it?

New teachers are joining with a Deakin University led research team to investigate effectiveness of teacher education. The project known as SETE (Studying the Effectiveness of Teacher Education) focuses on how best to prepare teachers who demonstrate the knowledge and skills for teaching students in diverse settings.

Focusing on early career teachers in Victoria and Queensland Deakin University? in partnership with Griffith University, the Queensland Department of Education and Training, the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and the Queensland College of Teachers? will examine the effectiveness of teacher education in equipping early career teachers to meet the learning needs of young people in a range of schools.

Specific consideration is given to diversity in terms of geography and student and community population characteristics.

The quality of teacher education is a matter of concern in Australia where popular perception suggests teacher education falls short in preparing graduates for the challenges of teaching. This project brings together key stakeholders with a range of perspectives in order to build knowledge regarding the preparation, induction and retention of quality teachers in diverse settings.

The project will use school-based case studies and first year teacher and principal surveys to inform policy development, program accreditation and design and delivery of teacher education programs in Australian universities.

The following research questions will be addressed:

- How well equipped are teacher education graduates to meet the requirements of the diverse settings in which they are employed?
- What characteristics of teacher education programs are most effective in preparing teachers to work in a variety of school settings?
- How does the teacher education course attended impact on graduate employment destination, pathways and retention within the profession?

Links to the first survey were emailed to eligible teacher education graduates in March. Additional surveys will be distributed in October 2012 and March 2013. Principal surveys will be distributed in May and November 2012, and May 2013.

The SETE study will run concurrently with the national Larghinal Teacher Workforce Main Study. The project is supported by Australian Research Council funding.

For more information about SETE contact jodie.kins@deakin.edu.au