

ACU says new entry requirements will damage workforce

Australian Catholic University Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven rejected the NSW government's call for mandatory maths requirements for primary school teachers, saying the decision would cause long-term damage to the teaching workforce.

“Entry to teaching courses has already declined by a third under current band 5 requirements, producing an impending workforce crisis,” Professor Craven said.

“This move on maths will simply dissuade more students from opting to take up teaching. It will reduce the pool by another 25 per cent, meaning the government will not be able to staff its new schools and will have to import teachers.

“It is completely unnecessary as primary teachers undertake substantive maths to HSC level as part of their degrees. All teachers graduating in NSW have successfully completed LANTITE demonstrating their Numeracy skills to be in the top 30% of the adult population.

“Such a move represents another NSW Minister caving in to the Teachers Federation by using teacher entry standards to distract from the need to provide stronger assurance of existing teachers; it will only lead to increasing bargaining power while creating an artificial teacher shortage.”

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