

The new 'Teach For Australia' initiative will target high-achieving university graduates from specialised fields such as Maths and Science, and place them in classrooms after six weeks of accelerated teacher training

The cornerstone of the *Education Revolution* is improving teacher quality:

- Teacher quality is the greatest in-school influence on student results.
- The top 25 OECD countries recruit their teachers from the top third of graduates.
- A teacher's knowledge of their subjects is directly linked to the performance of students.
- There is a link between a teacher's academic record and student results.
- Students achieve more with teachers who perform well on literacy tests.

Businesses like BHP, Microsoft, and a host of others are interested in partnering the program.

'Teach for Australia' starts in Victoria next year, with 90 graduates entering the program. The program will then be rolled out nationally.

Enticing top-calibre candidates into teaching is, therefore, key to improving education in our country. Based on 'Teach First' models in England and the USA, 'Teach for Australia':

- Identifies subject experts; graduates apply and are assessed on academic results, questionnaire and interviews.
- Applicants receive an intensive six-weeks of accelerated teacher training. Teachers are then placed in school for two years.
- At the completion of their two years, teachers will be fully qualified; equivalent to a Diploma of Education.
- Teachers will then have the option of continuing in the classroom, or moving to the business sector with a program partner company.

In England, the program has attracted top calibre minds into education, who are making a significant difference in their schools. Most interesting, despite their enhanced business options, at the completion of their two-year term, more than half are electing to continue teaching.

## Candidates

Interested graduates will apply on-line by submitting:

- a curriculum vitae
- answers to short response questions
- personal and academic information.

Prerequisites for consideration:

- you must be a Australian citizen, have permanent residency, or hold a valid full time work visa
- the completion of a bachelors degree within the last 5 years
- you are not eligible if you already hold a degree or diploma in education.

'Teach for Australia' is seeking graduates with a variety of personal attributes, including:

- high achievement in studies, extra-curricular activities and / or work
- commitment to making a difference in a student's life
- communication, problem solving and organisational skills
- perseverance
- respect and humility.

