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Subject: Updated information on literacy and numeracy testing

Dear Principals

Canberra Teacher Recruitment Assessment

The ACT Minister for Education has previously outlined her commitment that recruits to the ACT public education system have personal literacy and numeracy levels equivalent to the top 30% of the population. Over 800 invitations have been forwarded to staff whom have shown an interest in permanent appointment to ACT public schools, enabling them to participate in CANTRA in order that they may then be able to easily demonstrate that requirement.

Thank you for supporting staff in your school whom have enrolled to participate in one of three sittings of CANTRA this month. Close to 300 teachers have registered to sit CANTRA in three separate sessions on November 16, 17 and 19. Tickets for these sessions will be sent to applicants by ACER on Monday 9 November 2015.

While correspondence occurred directly to those teachers for whom CANTRA was relevant, the Australian Education Union (AEU) has raised concerns about a lack of clarity regarding whether the test is compulsory and who should participate. We have worked with the AEU to clarify concerns raised and an adjustment to the identified cohort of teachers has resulted from those discussions.

From the 2016 intake, all new recruits (new permanent, new casual and new contract teachers) will be required to undertake literacy and numeracy assessment as part of pre-employment criteria. This includes those who are recruited for, during and subsequent to 2016.

Existing staff who were **on contract** with the Directorate in Term 4, 2015 will not need to demonstrate personal literacy and numeracy levels equivalent to the top 30% of the population in order to secure a permanent role until **1 December 2016**. (Note: an Officer on a contract is continuously in a position in a school for more than for 21 teaching days).

Those wishing to engage in ongoing casual work with the Directorate are not required to sit CANTRA.

The [attached Q&A](#) is designed to assist you clarify CANTRA arrangements for any staff you may have at your school who has registered for one of the three sittings.

Regards

Deputy Director-General, Organisational Integrity |
Education and Training Directorate | ACT Government