

A Competence authority for teachers

The Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand (Teaching Council) is the professional organisation for teachers. A key element of its purpose is to champion good teaching practice, helping to raise the status of the profession.

Source: Ministry of Education factsheet

The key changes in the Act are that the powers of the Teaching Council's Competence Authority have been strengthened. The Teaching Council established the Competence Authority to help resolve competence complaints against teachers. Previously, if it was found that a teacher did not meet the required level of competence, only the Teaching Council, and not its delegated Competence Authority, could take actions set out in the Act.

These actions include:

- imposing conditions on a teacher's current or subsequent practising certificate
- referring the teacher to an impairment process
- annotating the register or list
- cancelling the teacher's practising certificate or authority.

The Competence Authority now holds the power to take the above actions in its own right or to direct the Teaching Council to carry out these actions in relation to competency.

What do boards need to do?

This should not require any changes of action on the part of employers. If competency concerns arise for a teacher in the school, employers will, as before, conduct their competency process according to the relevant collective agreement.

If a board has a concern regarding competency for a teacher, it is recommended they seek advice from NZSTA before undertaking any process.

Where do I find this in the Education Act?

Section 410AA.

When do the changes take effect?

Most provisions took effect from 19 May 2017. A change to the Teaching Council's name, formerly Education Council, and to the make-up of the Teaching Council, took effect from 29 September 2018.

Where do I get advice?

NZSTA will continue to update and advise you through factsheets, newsletters, and our website.

You can call **0800 782 435** or email actupdates@nzsta.org.nz.