

Police Vetting in Initial Teacher Education.

The Initial Teacher Education Programme Approval, Monitoring and Review Requirements, July 2019, State in requirement 6.5 that:

All candidates must undergo police vetting in accordance with the Children's Act 2014.

All candidates must sign a declaration of convictions, pending charges or matters which may impact on their ability to register as a teacher, including mental and physical fitness.

The declaration will include a commitment to immediately disclose any such matters that arise while enrolled in the programme.

Under the guidance notes in the requirements there are the following considerations for the provider to exercise their discretion on whether to accept a candidate i.e. severity and recency of offending, age of candidate when offending occurred, pattern of offending and whether the offending means the candidate is unlikely to be of 'good character and fit to teach'.

As a provider you can make a decision on whether to enrol a candidate. However, both you and the candidate need to be aware that the Teaching Council will go through its own process for **registration** which will involve consideration of a subsequent Police vet.

The process at entry to an ITE programme does not guarantee registration as a teacher.

To be eligible to gain teacher registration in New Zealand, an applicant must be able to demonstrate that they meet the Teaching Council's requirement of 'good character and fit to teach'. To be of good character an applicant must meet the requirements set out in the Teaching Council's policy 'Good Character and Fit to be a Teacher'. This includes considering any convictions and/or criminal charges, and any other information provided by the Police on a Police vet.

All convictions are seriously considered by the Teaching Council and each case will be assessed individually. If the applicant has a conviction (or a number of convictions) that is not "a specified offence" under the Children's Act 2014¹, they will be assessed by the internal committee of the Teaching Council (ARM - Application Review Meeting). If the conviction(s) are deemed sufficiently serious, the application will be referred for consideration to the Council's Registration Panel.

The Registration Panel has been established to consider applications for teacher registration where there are concerns over whether an applicant meets the 'Good character and fit to be a teacher' requirements for registration. The Panel is comprised of teachers holding practising certificates and lay members. They are not Council employees.

For this reason, we cannot confirm at point of entry to a programme whether any candidate will have their registration approved until a full review by the Teaching Council (through ARM and/or a Panel) takes place.

It is important that the candidate, when applying for an Initial teacher education programme, knows of this process for all convictions at the point of registration.

Nga mihi nui.

¹ If an applicant has been convicted of a specified offence then they will require an exemption under s35 of the Children's Act.