

FAQs for Teacher Refresh Consultation

What is the length of time for the teacher refresh consultation?

The consultation runs for four weeks, closing on **Friday 3 September 2021**.

The Council will then consider all feedback provided before deciding on the new rules and policy changes. We will also publish an analysis of the submissions we have received during the consultation.

What is satisfactory recent teaching?

This is defined as two years uninterrupted teaching in the last five years, or a shorter period approved by the Council.

Would a teacher returning to teaching part-time after maternity leave who couldn't meet the satisfactory recent teaching requirement, need to do a teacher refresh process?

Maternity leave counts as service if the teacher has remained employed and is paid by the employer (or through paid parental leave payments or a combination of these). In many cases, the teacher will be able to satisfy satisfactory recent teaching requirements (SRT), but also needs to meet the other requirements for renewal (including professional development in the past three years and progress in te reo/tikanga competency).

When the teacher can't meet SRT requirements, whether they will need to undertake a refresh process would depend on the practising certificate type that they hold:

Provisional practising certificate: Under the proposals in the consultation document, if the teacher wanted to renew their Tōmua | Provisional practising certificate and it was less than five years since they were first issued with this practising certificate type, they would be able to renew using the new/beginning teacher practice plan refresh option. **This is a new provision.**

After five or more years renewing this practising certificate type, they would need to complete a Teacher Education Refresh (TER) programme. **This is the current provision.**

Full practising certificate: Under the proposals in the consultation document, an experienced teacher seeking to renew a Tūturu | Full (Category One) or Pūmau | Full (Category Two) practising certificate, who couldn't meet the satisfactory recent teaching requirements, would be required to complete a Return to Practice Plan (RTPP). **This is the current provision.**

If the teacher continued to renew using a RTPP after the five-year period, they may be required to complete a TER programme. **This is the current provision.**

Can I renew a Pūmau | Full (Category Two) practising certificate (previously known as “Subject to Confirmation”) without having to do a teacher refresh process?

If you meet satisfactory recent teaching requirements, and the other requirements for renewing this practising certificate type, you will be able to continue to renew in the usual way and won't need to use a teacher refresh option.

Does casual relieving count towards meeting satisfactory recent teaching requirements for renewing a practising certificate?

Yes – employment as a casual reliever counts towards meeting satisfactory recent teaching requirements.

Do teachers who are employed as relieving teachers have to do a teacher refresh process?

Anyone who is employed as a teacher for more than 20 half-days in a calendar year is required to have a current practising certificate. If the teacher meets the satisfactory recent teaching (SRT) requirements, they can continue to renew their practising certificate in the usual way. Teacher refresh options apply when the teacher is not able to meet SRT requirements, and so provide another pathway for renewal in these cases.

Do I have to do a Teacher Education Refresh programme if I've been a relieving teacher for more than five years?

Anyone who is employed as a teacher for more than 20 half-days in a calendar year is required to have a current practising certificate. If you meet satisfactory recent teaching requirements, and the other requirements for renewing your practising certificate, you will be able to continue to renew in the usual way and won't need to use a teacher refresh option.

How much does a Teacher Education Refresh programme cost? Does the Council receive any of this money?

Fees for Teacher Education Refresh (TER) programmes range between \$1,690 and \$2,490, depending on the provider chosen. Currently the fees are paid for by the Government, until the end of June 2022. There is no indication at this stage whether this funding will continue.

The Council selects and approves providers for the programmes but does not receive any of the fees paid for TER programmes – these go directly to the provider.

Who is going to be providing the Teacher Education Refresh programmes?

The Council currently has contracts with several different Teacher Education Refresh (TER) providers. At this stage, there are no plans to change the way TER programmes are provided.

What do Teacher Education Refresh programmes cover?

Specific content varies, but general topics can include understanding the diversity of our learning communities, curriculum, assessment and planning, design for learning, teaching in Aotearoa New Zealand and a supervised practicum.