



Media release

The Place To Be

From the Minister for Education

TOP UNIVERSITY GRADUATES TO TEACH OUR FUTURE

Around 600 bright young university graduates have applied to teach in educationally disadvantaged schools under the first ever Teach For Australia recruitment program.

The Education Minister, Bronwyn Pike, today announced a milestone deadline for the inaugural program being run by non-profit organisation Teach For Australia.

"The Brumby Labor Government is thrilled to receive applications from all over Australia in response to this program," Ms Pike said.

"The program will take up to 75 high-calibre graduates and send them into Victorian schools over the next two years."

"Victoria is very proud to be leading the nation in being the first to offer this program.

"Our Government is committed to getting the very best educators into our schools to implement our five-year Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development commitment. We are now making good on our promise."

Teach For Australia is part of a \$550 million partnership between the Victorian Government, the Commonwealth and the business sector to raise the level of teaching nationwide.

"This innovative program prepares high-achieving graduates who might be heading for law, accounting, sciences, management consulting or similar careers recruiting them to work as teachers for two years in disadvantaged schools," Ms Pike said.

The successful applicants (known as associates) will begin with a six-week intensive education course later this year. They will be allocated a school, spend 80 per cent of their time in the classroom and earn more than \$45,000 per year.

The rest of their work days will be spent completing their two-year Post Graduate Diploma of Teaching through the University of Melbourne.

The graduates will also participate in a leadership program with Teach For Australia's corporate partners, including Boston Consulting Group and Corrs Chambers Westgarth.

Glen Proctor, the Executive Principal of Hume Secondary College, has met some of the applicants and was very impressed with the calibre of the candidates.

"From those I have met, I would be more than happy to have Teach For Australia associates in my school," Mr Proctor said.

Similar programs operating in the United Kingdom and United States have been very successful, with many graduates continuing to teach after their two years are up, while others subsequently return to teaching after sampling the corporate world.

