

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Teacher Quality Institute Board Appointment 2020 (No 6)

Disallowable instrument DI2020–235

made under the

**ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010, s 14 and Financial Management Act 1996 s 78
and s 79**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010* (the Act) governs the establishment, functions and membership of the ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) Board.

Section 15 of the Act deals with the appointment of members of the TQI Board and requires such appointments to be made by the Minister.

The vacancy has arisen with the expiry of the second term on 30 May 2020 of Dr William Maiden as the Chair of the TQI Board appointed under section 15 (2) (a). Ms Roberta McRae was appointed as interim Chair to enable the completion of the recruitment process which was delayed due to COVID-19. This instrument revokes her appointment.

This instrument appoints Ms Natalie Howson to fill the vacancy on the Board as chair for a period of three years.

A notice of vacancy was publicly advertised in the press, on the ACT Diversity Register, on jobs ACT and to stakeholder networks in February and then June 2020. A five-person panel, representing the ACT Education Directorate, Catholic Education, Independent schools, University of Canberra and the Australian Education Union assessed the applications in March 2020 and decided to seek a broader field of applicants. The panel considered new and previous applications in June and recommended to the Minister the suitable applicant. The Minister selected Ms Howson as her preferred applicant.

Ms Howson has 25 years' experience in senior executive roles in the state and federal public service. She has established and lead a commonwealth statutory authority and been Director General of two ACT Government Directorates. Her experience also includes senior executive roles in the largest agencies of the Australian Government - Medicare Australia, Centrelink and Defence. These roles focused on service delivery reform, complex program development, regulation and change management. She was

recognised throughout her career for skills in leadership, stakeholder collaboration, effective change management and delivery.

She has a proven track record of business development. In delivering change across both service and technology-based environments, Ms Howson has established successful partnerships in many diverse sectors. She is an experienced chair and has been a member of international and national policy and regulatory committees. She is an accomplished media spokesperson. Ms Howson commenced her working life as a secondary teacher and then curriculum and teaching coach with the Queensland Education Department. She was CEO of the Australian Sports Drug Agency in the leadup to the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. In 2000 she was the ACT Telstra Businesswoman of the Year. Natalie founded the successful children's charity Boundless Canberra in 2012. Natalie retired from the public service in July 2019 after eight years as a Director General in the community services and education directorates.

Ms Howson's qualifications are as follows:

Masters of Education Leadership (International)
Charles Sturt University
Commenced P/T 2017

Bachelor of Human Movement Studies double major in physiology and education
University of Queensland

Awarded 1983

The appointee is not a public servant and the determination is a Disallowable Instrument for the purpose of Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001*.

The Legislative Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs was consulted on the appointment and made no comment.