Catholic Education Commission NSW (CECNSW) today supported the approach of the Australian Government’s initiatives to improve national teacher training.

The initiatives were recommended by the Government’s Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG), which was asked to examine ways to improve education of new teachers to better prepare them with the practical skills needed for Australian classrooms.

Among its recommendations were a stronger national accreditation process, an entry process that considers academic skills and personal attributes, an integrated pre-service education process and a requirement to prove classroom readiness.

CECNSW Executive Director Brian Croke said it was appropriate to regularly re-assess teacher education to ensure it was producing teachers capable of improving student outcomes.

“These recommendations have the potential to enhance Australia’s school education system by improving the quality of new teachers entering the profession,” Dr Croke said.

“Many of the TEMAG’s recommendations appear to complement the initiatives being implemented under the NSW Government’s Great Teaching, Inspired Learning reforms, which are supported by CECNSW.”

Dr Croke said CECNSW was keen to ensure that the new measures are properly resourced and successfully implemented.

“In particular, adequate resources need to be provided to universities to support professional placement and course provision, as well as to achieve the intended extra content, assessment and quality.”

Catholic education employs more than 19,000 teachers in 586 schools across NSW.

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