

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT 2010 FOR TEACHERS



Rationale

As you are aware, the very essence of Suzuki method is change. Dr. Suzuki himself was careful to bring to teachers' attention any development by announcing "new idea!". We all then tried to incorporate this new idea into our own teaching.

It was with this in mind that the requirement of 6 hours per year of professional development came into existence. After all, we can only teach using Suzuki Method's most current ideas by attending regular professional development sessions. The Professional Development Committee tries to offer stimulating sessions throughout the year to excite the interest and growth of all of us. Many Suzuki organisations in Australia, and around the world, have such a requirement, often much more than 6 hours per year.

The Annual Professional Development Requirement

Accredited Suzuki teachers are required to complete six hours of Suzuki Professional Development each year in order to be eligible in the FOLLOWING year to –

1. Be listed in the Directory of Accredited Teachers
AND
2. Enter students for graduations.

At least 3 hours of the 6-hour minimum must be instrumental professional development. This change has been made in the strong belief that both Suzuki Philosophy on the one hand, and instrumental issues (tone, technique, musicality, and instrumental teaching ideas) on the other, are equally important. Suzuki Method is never fixed, and it is important that teachers are up-to-date and refreshed with the latest teaching techniques on their instrument.

Those who teach two instruments will need to do at least 3 hours on each instrument; however, violin and viola would count as one instrument, as the instrumental PD is usually combined for those instruments. The ideal opportunity for instrumental PD is, of course, at Autumn Festival; but we aim to provide at least one other opportunity of minimum 3 hours instrumental PD for all instruments and voice during the year but there must be a minimum of 3 teachers enrolling for sessions to be viable. Teachers in the smaller instrument groups, such as Voice and Guitar, may need to make private arrangements with their tutor.

NEW

The hours are to be completed by the close of business for the year unless special consideration has been granted by the Professional Development Committee. To apply for special consideration please contact Suzuki Music to obtain the relevant form which must be submitted, with any substantiating documentation, by 31 October 2010. Applications for special consideration will then be reviewed by the Professional Development committee and you will be notified of the outcome in writing. Applications received after 31 October will not be reviewed for special consideration.

Completing Your Hours

Please use the enclosed 2010 PD Calendar to plan ahead and ensure your hours are covered. It is both inadvisable and inconvenient to contact either the office staff or Teacher Trainers in Term 4 asking how the hours can be completed when the scheduled PD sessions have concluded. A wide variety of PD is offered every year, with your feedback sought after every activity to continually improve the content and quality.

The required 6 hours may be completed through:

- Attendance at the numerous PD sessions offered by Suzuki Music, including Autumn Festival.
- Enrolment in an Intermediate or Advanced Course (the year of lectures/tutorials only, not just completing assessment requirements)
- Attendance at selected Primary lectures or tutorials, or Intermediate tutorials (by arrangement with the tutor and after registering and paying with the Suzuki Music office)
- Attendance at other Suzuki Association Professional Development sessions, either interstate or overseas (proof of attendance required)
- Individual lessons with a Teacher Trainer (only in extraordinary situations where it is really impossible for a teacher to attend Autumn Festival or the other offered PD. Please note that this is not available as an end of year, last minute option)

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Rolls will be taken at each session. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have signed it, including at each session at Autumn Festival.

Once a term (from Term 2), lists will be sent outlining the activities attended and the hours completed. If the six hours have not been completed by September, a courtesy reminder letter will be sent, outlining the options remaining that year. It is then your responsibility to make the necessary arrangements and ensure the Suzuki Music Office is informed.

Certificates

All Accredited teachers who fulfil the Annual Professional Development Requirement will be issued with an annual *Teacher Registration Certificate*, sent in February each year. Teacher trainee members who complete a minimum of six hours of Professional Development will be issued a *Certificate of Attendance*.

Teachers in Training

Primary Trainees in the first year of their course are not required to attend other PD activities to meet the Annual PD Requirement. It is, however, recommended as it is an excellent opportunity to experience other Suzuki teacher trainers and teachers.

In the second and subsequent years of completing the course, Primary Trainees ARE required to do the minimum 6 hours in order to remain on the Teachers List (and enter students for graduation in the following year if the trainee has completed their accreditation).

For example, a teacher starts the Primary Course in 2009 and after completing the necessary requirements, is listed in the Teacher’s Directory as an Approved Trainee. They must complete the 6 hours in 2010 in order to remain on the list in 2011, either still as an Approved Trainee or as Primary Accredited.

Under current arrangements, Primary trainees will receive 6 hours of tutorials in the second year after commencing the course, which will fulfil minimum requirements for that year if all are attended.

However, trainees are urged to enrol as well in other PD events, in order to experience the broader picture of Suzuki philosophy and method, and to interact with the wider Suzuki community of experienced teachers.

Summary of Annual Professional Development Requirement 2010 (Accredited Teachers)

