

2011 ACT John Laing Professional Development Awards

The Australian Capital Territory Branch of Principals Australia Institute celebrated the 2011 John Laing Professional Development Awards on Thursday 23 February at the Hotel Kurrajong, following the ACT PAI Annual General Meeting.

Irene Lind and **Dennis Sleigh** were nominated by their peers for their commitment to professional learning, leadership of professional learning, professionalism and their capacity to inspire leadership actions in others.

Irene Lind was nominated for her outstanding encouragement of, and contribution to the professional development of her peers in the education sector. Irene has been an active member of the ACT branch of PAI for many years, and a keen promoter of *Dare to Lead*, a PAI project which works to improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Irene retired from her position as Principal of Aranda Primary School four years ago, and is now Project Manager of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Leadership Program in the ACT Education and Training Directorate.

Dennis Sleigh was unfortunately unable to attend the awards, but was honoured for his time as a school leader over the past 40 years. He has been a principal of five different schools over his career, as well as working in Catholic Education Offices and the Australian Catholic University. Dennis has been a strong supporter of principals participating in ongoing professional learning and encouraged colleagues to enhance their careers by taking on new challenges. He has been an active participant in the ACT branch of Principals Australia Institute, and a mentor and inspiration to many.

The awards were presented by Liz Furler, CEO of Principals Australia Institute, who commended the awardees for their ongoing commitment to high quality professional development in education.

PAI would like to thank **Chris Hamilton** for his time and dedication as the ACT Branch Convenor for PAI. Chris is moving to Hong Kong to take up a principal position at an international primary school. **All the best Chris!**

We would also like to welcome **Catherine Rey**, principal of Merici College, who will be taking on the role starting mid-March.

The John Laing Professional Development Award is a peer nominated celebration of school leadership and professional learning. Its aim is to celebrate leadership learning: for school leaders by school leaders. Contact your [local PAI Branch](#) to nominate colleagues.

