

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **Social and emotional learning key to effective school discipline solutions**

Social and emotional learning is the key to improving school students' behaviour, says Principals Australia Institute, the national professional services organisation for school principals.

The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) this week released its report *PISA 2015: Reporting Australia's Results*, which surveyed more than 14,000 students in 758 Australian schools. Its chapter "The school learning environment" stated: "About one-third of the students in advantaged schools, and about half of those in disadvantaged schools, reported that in most or every class there was noise and disorder, students didn't listen to what the teacher said, and that students found it difficult to learn."

Paul Geyer, Chief Executive Officer of Principals Australia Institute, says, "Fostering a focus on student wellbeing, through social and emotional learning programs, is crucial to turning around these worrying trends, improving students' mental health, and creating better behavioural outcomes for schools."

"Research points to these wellbeing-focussed programs as being an important part of the solution to student discipline problems."

"Students experiencing mental health problems are less likely to engage with school work, and more likely to behave antisocially."

"Conversely, students who are mentally healthy experience fewer emotional, social or behavioural difficulties, and this has positive effects on their school work."

"In a nutshell: good mental health is a prerequisite to good learning."

Principals Australia Institute (PAI) delivers the [KidsMatter Primary](#) program to more than 3000 primary schools across Australia, and the [MindMatters](#) program to more than 1400 secondary schools.

PAI also offers [Teacher Wellbeing Workshops](#), facilitated by former school principals and leaders, as professional development that enhances teachers' social and emotional health.

For more information about Principals Australia Institute, please visit [pai.edu.au](http://pai.edu.au)

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**Media contact**

Gianna Ferrara  
General Manager, Marketing and Brand  
E: [Gianna.Ferrara@pai.edu.au](mailto:Gianna.Ferrara@pai.edu.au)  
P: 08 8394 2177