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Push for principal certification to lift student outcomes

Education industry professionals are rallying behind the push for national voluntary principal certification to foster better school leadership and improve student performance.

Principals Australia Institute's proposed *Australian Principal Certification Program* validates the professional commitment of principals to the Australian Professional Standard for Principals and its operation across areas such as leadership, innovative practice and personal development.

It would also acknowledge high-performing principals and their skills in a bid to elevate the overall status of the profession.

Queensland Education Leadership Institute (QELi) CEO Dr Stephen Brown was recently appointed Chair of Principals Australia Institute (PAI) Certification Reference Panel to spearhead the development of the program.

He said the industry was seeking an Australian Principal Certification process to provide a national benchmark for recognising principals and their skills in addition to upholding the quality of the industry's current professionals.

"Principal certification will recognise the importance of educational leadership to improve the quality of student learning, and supports those principals who are taking professional responsibility in demonstrating the Australian Principal Standard," Dr Brown said.

"We believe principals who take part in this voluntary certification would not only improve their personal development and skills, but would enhance the existing expertise within the profession."

Principals Australia Institute CEO Jim Davies said developing an accountable process for certifying the leadership capacity of principals would encourage professional standards and individual responsibility for professional learning.

"Principal certification will provide an accountable process for leadership capacity and expertise of principals across the country," he said.

"This is not about performance management, but leadership formation and principals' collective responsibility to shape the future of the profession."

A recent national consultation tour gathered feedback and critical advice from principals in government, Catholic and independent sectors toward the development of a draft model.

Principals Australia Institute provides professional learning, leadership development and support to the nation's 10,000 principals and schools. PAI is a not-for-profit organisation supporting primary and secondary government, Catholic and independent schools across all sectors.

MEDIA RELEASE



QELi was established as a not-for-profit organisation in June 2010 and helps develop education leaders to improve student outcomes. Attracting participants from across Australia and the world, it is a partnership between the Queensland Department of Education and Training, Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland.

For more information please visit: www.qeli.qld.edu.au/ and www.pai.edu.au/certification

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