



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Principals work towards establishing Principal Certification

Principals and students will take part in a national consultation that kicks off in Adelaide tomorrow – **Feb 17 2014** – to further the development of the Australian Principal Certification Program.

In consultation with principals, Principals Australia Institute (PAI) will develop a quality assured and publically accountable process for certifying the leadership capacity and expertise of Australian principals aligned with the Australian Professional Standard for Principals.

Principals from all sectors - Catholic, government and independent - across all states and territories and all levels of schooling have been invited to participate in the National Consultation Tour.

“The collaborative process will lead to the establishment of a certification model that recognises and celebrates the outstanding contribution principals make to the education of young Australians,” says Jim Davies, CEO of Principals Australia Institute

“The National Consultation heralds an excellent opportunity for principals to lead the conversation about their professional learning needs and how they might gain professional recognition for exemplary school leadership.

“There is also a student program that will be highly interactive and will explore and acknowledge the vital role our principals play in shaping the culture of schools and in turn, student achievement and wellbeing.”

Louisa Rennie, Director Principal Certification, will be joined by Sheree Vertigan and Adam Smith to lead the consultation.

Sheree has gained international recognition for her leadership in school and education transformation. She is the immediate past president of Australian Secondary Principals Association and was named in The Australian Financial Review and Westpac Group 100 Women of Influence Awards 2013.

Adam Smith will facilitate the student forum. Adam is committed to bringing the voice of students to the core of education debate and reform in Australia. Adam is the Lead Facilitator of the Rural Youth Ambassadors Program, a Senior Consultant with the Centre for Strategic Education and a regular Education Commentator on Channel 10's 'The Project'.

The National Consultation will build on evidence gathered at the **Melbourne Roundtable**, held on September 11 2014, attended by 52 key representatives from national and state principal associations. Roundtable participants provided their advice, feedback and commentary and affirmed the direction that Principals Australia Institute was taking.

Following the Roundtable, a preliminary national consultation was conducted to gather early feedback on the design of the Australian Principal Certification Program.

The National Tour will engage principals directly and continue the dialogue about developing the certification model.

For further information: **www.pai.edu/certification**

Interviews: Jim Davies, CEO and Louisa Rennie, Director Principal Certification are available for interview.

Media contact: Shannon Short
Communications Manager, Principals Australia Institute

Ph 08 8394 2155

Mob 0419 276 676

Principals Australia Institute (PAI) 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 schools across all schooling sectors (government, Catholic and independent).