

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Quality educational leadership through Principal Certification

National consultation and resources launched today

A growing number of principals and school leaders around the country are supporting a move towards establishing a national voluntary process for certifying Australian Principals.

Over the next two months, principals from all sectors - Catholic, government and independent - across all states and territories and all levels of schooling, will be invited to participate in a national consultation process to develop a draft model which will then be prepared for further consultation early in 2014.

Principals Australia Institute is leading the move towards principal certification and has today released:

- commissioned research that investigates existing international principal certification programs
- a 7 point plan to guide the national consultation process

The resources - and a new video which introduces the Australian Principal Certification Program - can be accessed at the PAI website – www.pai.edu.au/certification

The launch of the resources follows a successful event held last month. The ***Melbourne Roundtable – a conversation to progress the Australian Principal Certification program*** was 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 is taking to design a certification program that will be profession owned and profession led.

“Principals are leading and driving the quality of education in Australia’s schools; they are shaping our nation’s future leaders. It is imperative that the profession takes the lead to develop its own process for ensuring the quality, skill and expertise of school leaders,” explains Jim Davies, CEO of Principals Australia Institute.

“Why do principals need a certification program? Our collective purpose is to focus on continuous leadership improvement in all Australian schools, and in turn, improve the opportunities for all Australian students and the quality of their learning outcomes.

The Australian Principal Certification program will raise and sustain community confidence in school leadership, articulate principal professional learning needs into the future and enable principals to focus on their longitudinal leadership formation, developing and finessing their leadership over time, responsive to context and in relationship with others.”

Professor Brian Caldwell, Managing Director of Educational Transformations and former Dean of Education at the University of Melbourne and the University of Tasmania brought his latest research to the attention of Roundtable participants.

“I have never been so enthusiastic about an endeavour such as this, a Certification program whereby school leaders will prepare evidence of what they know and understand, but most importantly, of what they can do to achieve measured improvement in our schools,” said Professor Caldwell.

Certification is “the formal procedure by which the leadership capacity of principals / school leaders is assessed, verified and recognised in writing by issuing a certificate as to the attributes, characteristics, quality, qualification or status of individuals in accordance with profession-developed requirements and the Australian Principal Standard.”

Principals will seek certification to:

- gain professional recognition for exemplary leadership
- affirm that principals are integral to student success
- elevate the status of the profession
- build and sustain expertise within the profession
- demonstrate achievement of the Australian Professional Standard for Principals
- address the National Declaration on the Educational Goals for Young Australians
- participate in a national network of leading learners

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

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