

Principals have a critical role in teacher education

As the Australian Primary Principals Association's National Conference gets underway in Hobart this week APPA president, Dennis Yarrington, reinforced the importance of the quality of teaching in the classroom.

Mr Yarrington said,

"There is no question that a child receives the best education when there is great teaching. Principals know, too, that great teachers are hardworking professionals who have high expectations for student learning.

"It is time to look closely at the calibre of people entering the teaching profession, the quality of our teaching courses and the practical experience they've received during their course. All are critical factors in achieving the best outcomes for students in schools."

Mr Yarrington said that school leaders must be involved in teacher selection, preparation and education.

"After selecting the best teaching candidates we know that initial teacher education is the most important step in seeing great teachers in our schools. Principals are ready to work with government, universities and systems in developing the courses so necessary for teaching graduates to be classroom ready."

At today's APPA Forum, which preceded the Conference, delegates explored how universities are preparing primary school graduates for the classroom and, just as importantly, what should be done to prepare new teachers for contemporary classrooms.

APPA is the professional association representing 7,200 school leaders in Government, Independent and Catholic schools across Australia.

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