

National Year One check offers a valuable opportunity

The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) welcomes the opportunity provided by the Federal Education Minister's announcement of an advisory panel to develop an evidence-based literacy and numeracy check in Year One.

In commenting on the announcement, APPA President, Dennis Yarrington, said,

"Principals and teachers know that literacy and numeracy competency is fundamental to young children achieving at school and beyond. For some children, particularly in the first years at school, this requires identifying areas of need, and then providing early and sustained intervention.

"Setting up an expert advisory panel to investigate what is working and what will work best for Australian students is a good move and receives our support. The proposal to conduct an initial pilot study offers the opportunity to examine and evaluate effective and efficient assessment tools and, more importantly, identify what can then be done to support students who need intervention. Principals know that measures have to be in place early."

Mr Yarrington said that his association opened the door some time ago and examined what worked in the teaching of reading. He said the research resulted in a program now in place across the country that recognised explicit teaching of phonics was essential to reading success.

"APPA's *Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALL)* project used evidence to identify The Big Six of Reading. It also built the capacity of principals to lead their teachers in putting in place best practice in the teaching of reading. APPA is well positioned to contribute to both the panel investigation and any pilot study."

APPA welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the panel's deliberations over the next few months.

APPA is the professional association representing over 7,200 Government, Catholic and Independent primary school principals across Australia.

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