

19 July 2016

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Minister for Education and Training
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA), representing over 7000 principals across Australia, congratulations on the re-election of the Turnbull Coalition Government and your reappointment as Minister for Education and Training.

APPA believes there has been strong policy durability over the last few years that has seen real gains in initial teacher education, quality classroom teaching and effective school leadership. I take this opportunity to commit APPA to working with you and your office. With further work ahead, we see your reappointment as offering effective and long-term stability at a national level.

We were particularly pleased to see recognition of the importance of effective school leadership in the Coalition's **Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes** election document. As you would know, increased school autonomy brings with it greater responsibility and principals must always have the knowledge and skills to lead their schools. It is one of APPA's primary goals to have high-quality leadership in every school.

The APPA National Advisory Council – the body you met with in March this year – is meeting in Adelaide on 9 – 10 August (Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday). At this meeting, representatives of our twenty-seven member associations will review the *Areas of Future Focus* found in **Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes**. In the spirit of this document's principles and consultative focus, we aim to explore and identify how best to achieve 'strong learning outcomes for all Australian students, regardless of their school or family background'.

Prior to our meeting, I would welcome any comments or input you have that would help frame our discussions. You would, of course, be most welcome to join us should that fit in with your schedule.

Finally, I look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of Australian school communities and the students in their care.

Yours faithfully



Dennis Yarrington
APPA President