

## Education the key to achieving our nation's 'great potential'

In Hobart today where over five hundred principals gathered at the Australian Primary Principals Association's National Conference, APPA president, Dennis Yarrington, said,

"Primary school principals have long recognised the scope of talent that lies within each child and across every classroom. The new Prime Minister's statement that 'we are a very strong country with great potential' receives our full support.

"What is true is that to meet the challenges of tomorrow and reach our great potential, education will be the key. It is critical that we invest strongly in our schools, in our teachers and in our school leaders.

"There is now is an excellent opportunity for the new Prime Minister and his government to commit to funding primary schools so that the needs of all students are met, no matter their circumstance or which school they attend."

Mr Yarrington said that the APPA National Conference provided a good opportunity to reiterate the association's school funding principles.

"The principles by which our schools should be funded remain those that APPA has taken to many discussions and forums, including the Review of Funding for Schooling. These were to ensure that there is a single, national model of funding that accounts for student need, is sector blind and transparent.

"Primary school funding requires the long term commitment of all governments and of the Australian community. Our country's investment in primary-aged students must reflect the complexity of primary school teaching, our commitment to inclusive schools and the additional resources required for early and sustained intervention."

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

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