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## New leadership for Australian Primary School Principals

At its recent national conference in Sydney, the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) announced that ACT principal Dennis Yarrington would become its new president from January 2015. Mr Yarrington takes over the role from Norm Hart, who will retire after leading the association over the past four years.

Mr Yarrington's election by the 24 state and territory principals' associations that make up the Australian Primary Principals Association was unanimously supported and will build upon the role APPA plays in the national education landscape. Mr Hart commented,

"Dennis has had a long and distinguished career in school leadership. His thoughtful and strategic approach to issues confronting Australia today will certainly influence the development and implementation of policy that affects our primary school leaders and their school communities."

Mr Yarrington was the founding principal of Harrison School in the ACT and, in building to a current enrolment of 1405 P/K – 10 students, has led the school in its focus on values based contemporary learning, and technology innovation and integration. Over a successful career spanning both government and non-government school education, he has been a teacher, consultant and principal.

Dennis has extensive experience in policy development, a strong track record in building leadership capacity and, with wide experience and post graduate qualifications in special education and educational leadership, a deep knowledge of establishing inclusive school communities.

Mr Yarrington said that he looked forward to the task of leading an association that brings together principals from all sectors in every state and territory. He further wished Norm Hart an enjoyable and well-earned break after many years as an educational leader who contributed at school, local community, state and national levels.

"I pay tribute to Norm Hart for his leadership of APPA over the last four years. He is a passionate educator with an excellent understanding of the demands of the principal's role in metropolitan, regional and remote schools of every complexity. He's always advocated that effective school leadership is critical to the success of students in our nation's primary schools," Mr Yarrington said.

Mr Yarrington said he looked forward to working with Mr Hart over the coming months during the transition that will take full effect in January 2015.

The Australian Primary Principals Association represents 7,200 Government, Catholic and Independent primary school principals across Australia.

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