

## Principals welcome release of review report

The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) today welcomed the release of the *Through Growth to Achievement Report*.

APPA President, Dennis Yarrington, said the David Gonski AC led review panel has provided an overview of key reforms they believe will improve education achievement in Australia. Mr Yarrington also noted that many of the recommendations in the report align with the themes presented in APPA's submission to the panel.

Mr Yarrington spoke of the importance of engaging school leaders in any resulting reform.

"The important aspect in moving forward with reform is the engagement of school leaders and teachers in the development and implementation of recommendations.

"I am particularly pleased to see the acknowledgement in the Report of the key role of the principal as instructional leader and how changes to the role have placed at times overwhelming demands, expectations and responsibilities upon principals without the necessary resources and tools to achieve success.

"We need to provide trust and support to our school leaders in making decisions about the teaching and learning required for their community."

APPA strongly supports the emphasis on collaboration rather than competition, not just in schools but across schools, as a way of achieving better outcomes for all students.

Mr Yarrington commented that the report reaffirms the primary school focus on early learning and noted that many primary schools are already utilising the learning progressions in their day-to-day practice.

While early days, APPA looks forward to being a collaborative partner with governments and education jurisdictions in progressing the reform recommendations. APPA also recognises that adequate resourcing will be key to ensuring transformational recommendations are embedded in our primary schools.

Mr Yarrington said that APPA National Advisory Council will work on a full response to the reform recommendations following its meeting in May.

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

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