

APPA Media Release

Selecting the best people for teaching

Governments, universities, school systems and schools must work together so that passionate and capable people are entering the teaching profession and our classrooms.

Australian Primary Principals Association president, Dennis Yarrington, commented on recent discussion about entry standards into teaching,

“There are a number of critical factors in teacher education – the calibre of person entering the teaching profession, the quality of initial teacher education courses, the experience gained during practicum, and the transition and induction received by the new graduate over his or her early years of teaching. It has to be a shared responsibility.

“APPA’s earlier survey into teacher education pointed out that primary principals want to see clear protocols and standards on selection of people into teaching. Courses must be rigorous and demanding. Only those who have the capability to meet high expectations around course work, have the disposition to work with children and can communicate effectively with parents and colleagues should be selected.

“Teaching should not be perceived as a fallback position or a source of university funding. It is not unreasonable to expect that undergraduate students entering the primary classroom for the first time should be in the top 30% for literacy and numeracy. Anyone not suitable or capable should not be in our classrooms.”

Mr Yarrington emphasized the need for a rigorous screening of applicants where students entering the profession are:

- academically capable;
- emotionally intelligent;
- organised, dedicated, enthusiastic and conscientious;
- morally and ethically principled; and,
- respectful of, and communicate well with, both children and adults.

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

14 AUGUST 2018

**Media contact: Dennis Yarrington (APPA President)
0466 655 468**
