

Dear Colleagues,

Term 4 2018 is almost complete with some have already signed off, others doing the last bus duty and farewelling staff and students.

This is the reminder for the 'out of office' notice on the email. Most principals are now on holidays (officially) and therefore you need to let the community know that you are taking a well-earned rest AWAY from work. That message also should include employers and internal communication.

Twelve things to highlight from APPA as we count down to Christmas.

1. Education Minister Dan Tehan discusses a range of issues with APPA NAC, including the Melbourne Declaration, teacher education, curriculum, assessment and school leadership.
2. Funding agreements: Each state and territory has now signed up and agreed to the following national policy initiatives that support the three reform directions:



**a. Supporting students, student learning and student achievement**

- i. Enhancing the Australian Curriculum to support teacher assessment of student attainment and growth against clear descriptors;
- ii. Assisting teachers monitor individual student progress and identify student learning needs through opt-in online and on demand student learning assessment tools with links to student learning resources, prioritising early years foundation skills; and,
- iii. Reviewing senior secondary pathways into work, further education and training.

**b. Supporting teaching, school leadership and school improvement**

- i. Reviewing teacher workforce needs of the future to attract and retain the best and brightest to the teaching profession and attract teachers to areas of need; and,
- ii. Strengthening the initial teacher education accreditation system.

**c. Enhancing the national evidence base**

- i. Implementing a national unique student identifier (USI) that meets national privacy requirements in order to support better understanding of student progression and improve the national evidence base;
- ii. Establishing an independent national evidence institute to inform teacher practice, system improvement and policy development;
- iii. Improving national data quality, consistency and collection to improve the national evidence base and inform policy development.

There is still a lot of detail to be provided in these reforms. This is a great opportunity for principal associations to be involved and APPA will continue to push that the best reforms are done *with* principals, not to them.

3. APPA will be keen to hear the announcements for replacing AITSL CEO Lisa Rogers and ACARA CEO Rob Randall. Stay Tuned! Our congratulations to Lisa on her appointment as DG in WA Dept of Ed.
4. APPA welcomes the Education Council's agreement to review the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians. We see a major role for APPA and principals' associations in the consultation phase of the review.
5. APPA continues to push for NAPLAN be a sample test and school comparison data be removed from the My School website.
6. APPA's *National Professional Charter for Primary School Leaders* will be rolled out in 2019. As principals and primary school leaders join their state / territory sector association, they will receive a Charter.
7. 2019 National Primary Principals Day: Friday 2 August. This is to recognise and celebrate the great contribution our primary school leaders make to the education of children.
8. APPA has provided a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training Inquiry into Teacher Status. See the APPA website for a full copy.
9. APPA welcomes the Education Minister's call for the decluttering of the curriculum and the importance of foundational or essential skills for all learners.
10. APPA – Money Smart School Project Grants: Congratulations to the schools who will receive grants of up to \$5000 for 2019. The 2020 round will open in Term 3 2019. See the APPA website for more details.
11. APPA Conference 2019-Adelaide 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September. Book now to get the early bird price at: [www.appaconference.com.au](http://www.appaconference.com.au).
12. Readiness to Learn: **Thrive with 5** flyers are available from the APPA office. Contact Linda for copies at [ea@appa.asn.au](mailto:ea@appa.asn.au).

As this is my last report, I wish everyone a happy and restful Christmas, and a great holiday time. A big thankyou to all primary school leaders for your support of APPA and your state or territory principals' association.

The primary school leaders' views are heard loudly when we come together and speak with one voice.

Cheers,



Dennis Yarrington  
**APPA President**