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LABOR TO ESTABLISH NEW NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' ACADEMY

Labor will set up a new National Principals' Academy to give thousands of Australian principals advanced leadership training and support.

The evidence is clear: school leaders can have a dramatic impact on the performance of students.

A recent expert review found that high performing school leaders add between two and seven months' worth of growth in student learning in a single year.

That's why we want to help principals be the best they can be.

Training offered by the Academy will focus on advanced leadership, teaching and learning.

The training will be available to current and aspiring school principals, as well as other school leaders.

Access to training is inconsistent across Australia.

Not enough principals are receiving the specialised training they need. Fewer than one in four new principals complete training before they start.

Australia is also facing a looming shortfall of school principals.

Almost three quarters of Australian principals are over 50 years old. And between 2008 and 2013, the proportion of principals over 60 grew by 10 percentage points - to 18 per cent.

There is an urgent need to identify and train more principals, and support them

well.

That's what Labor's new National Principals' Academy is all about. It will give thousands of Australian principals advanced leadership training and development.

We'll work with school systems and the profession to deliver this.

There will be a range of courses offered by the Academy, from standalone subjects to programs that run for a couple of years.

Organisations with a proven track record in school leadership education will be able to tender to deliver these courses. Where successful courses are already being delivered, the Academy will seek to support and build on those.

Additional course content will be designed by experienced principals, and other experts.

Labor wants Australia to have the best school system in the world. To achieve that, we need the best possible school leadership.

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