



Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association

Media Release

Australian Catholic Primary Principals affirm the need for stronger community support.

May 11, 2020

The Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association welcomes the release of The [Australian Principal Occupational Health Safety and Wellbeing Survey 2019](#), a joint project from Australian Catholic University and Deakin University, which reveals 84 per cent of all principals and deputy/assistant principals have been subjected to some degree of 'offensive behaviours' by parents or students, work long hours and suffer increased levels of work-related stress.

As the peak body for Catholic Primary Principals, ACPPA understands that these statistics are not confined to the education sector, affecting society in general and have far reaching affects for many employed in complex and difficult roles.

While the current trend is worrying, ACPPA is heartened to see that during these difficult times of COVID-19, the teaching profession and the roles of education leaders has been affirmed and praised by the general community, with a renewed sense of appreciation and greater understanding of the work in schools.

The report indicates several recommendations which can be implemented to address the ongoing concerns.

ACPPA President, Brad Gaynor said, *"while some States and Territories have implemented improved changes, Principals would be more highly valued and supported if there was a stronger focus across all sectors and jurisdictions into reviewing work practices, providing relevant professional learning, improving social capital and developing a positive narrative in the community."*

ACPPA appreciates the work of various Diocesan employing authorities who have commenced work in identifying and addressing some of these challenges to Catholic Principals.

The annual *Australian Principal Occupational Health Safety and Wellbeing Survey* has heard from more than more than 50 per cent of Australia's more than 10,000 school principals since it first commenced in 2011. The full report can be read [HERE](#).

The Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association (ACPPA) represents over 1200 Catholic Primary School Principals across Australia.

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Advocacy and Action for Catholic School Leadership