

Media Release

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ACPPA SUPPORT FOR LANDMARK SPEECH

The Australian Catholic Primary Principal's Association (ACPPA) is urging Hon Alan Tudge MP, the Federal Minister for Education and Youth, to fulfil the promises made during his Landmark Speech at the Menzies Research Centre today.

The Minister addressed key issues relating to Quality Teaching, Curriculum and Assessment. The Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association (ACPPA) supports all opportunities to improve initial teacher education, conditions for teachers and professional learning.

ACPPA President, Brad Gaynor says, *'it was heartening to hear the Federal Minister make comments and commitments around Quality Teaching, Curriculum and Assessment. However, this now needs to be followed up with clear and concise action. A top priority needs to be initial teacher education and ensuring that universities attract the best applicants, expose students to contemporary and evidence-based research, plus ensure courses provide adequate and maximum classroom experience.'*

This year, ACPPA is conducting field-based research with all our Principals in collaboration with Australian Catholic University, University of Notre Dame, and the National Catholic Education Commission to gather Principal's perspectives on how we can improve ITE going forward. ACPPA would welcome the opportunity to be part of these ongoing discussions with the Minister.

ACPPA believes the conditions for teachers also requires urgent attention in order to retain quality teachers. *'With many teachers leaving the profession within 5 years, all employers need to look at ways to reduce the work demands and the over compliance and bureaucratic nature of the profession. Support for the wellbeing and mental health of teachers is also paramount,'* added Brad Gaynor.

Another key issue raised was Curriculum and Assessment. ACPPA has long called for an overall of the overcrowded Australian Curriculum to enable teachers to focus on the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy. *'It is time for the review into the Australian Curriculum to be progressed and for any recommendations to be implemented as a matter of urgency. There has been enough talk and debate about the overcrowded nature of the Australian Curriculum, and it's time to implement some solutions before it's too late,'* said Brad Gaynor.

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ACPPA joins other Principal associations who have been long opposed the high stakes nature of NAPLAN testing and disagrees with Minister Tudge as to its importance. ACPPA believes that whole cohort testing should be replaced by a testing sample program and that results should not be placed on the MySchool website. However, ACPPA does support a focus on formative assessment with Brad Gaynor stating, *'while ACPPA has opposing views regarding NAPLAN, it joins the new Education Minister in calling for an increased focus on formative assessment and a repository of evidence-based assessments that will support teachers and improve student outcomes.'*

The Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association looks forward to working in collaboration and consultation with Hon Alan Tudge MP, the Federal Minister for Education and Youth on these initiatives.

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

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