

## MEDIA RELEASE

June 6 2013

### **STUDENTS SWITCH PLACES WITH PRINCIPALS FOR A DAY**

#### ***SHORTAGE OF PRINCIPALS LOOMS AS CAMPAIGN DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE ROLE OF SCHOOL LEADERS***

A significant loss of school principals across Australia is looming, according to the Principals Australia Institute (PAI).

Research released by the Institute, shows 68% of principals and school leaders want to leave the profession within a decade.

As well, 50% of the next generation of leaders do not see themselves remaining at schools beyond ten years.

“These are rather worrying statistics and we need to find new ways to attract a younger generation to the profession,” said Jim Davies, CEO of PAI.

“The vitality and strength of our country depends on having capable, creative and competent school leaders who inspire our teachers and students to be the best that they can be.”

**Students from all over Australia are today (June 6) participating in ‘Student Principal for a Day’ with more than 100 students switching places with the real principal.**

The event is part of a major drive to raise the profile and appreciation of school leadership.

It will allow primary and secondary students to take part in a number of leadership opportunities and contribute to a national online conversation about issues relevant to students.

Hands-on tasks for the honorary principal are likely to include speaking at assembly, joining in a staff meeting, visiting classrooms and coordinating yard duty.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to listen to student voices from all around Australia, and a simple way to help students value the role of their principal and the school leadership team,” Mr Davies said.

“My hope is that ‘Student Principal for a Day’ will inspire young people to consider a career in education - or to even become a principal one day.

“2012 saw the introduction of the National Professional Standard for Principals. This is a positive step towards recognizing and valuing the skills and abilities that people need to take on the role of principal.

“The standard sets a benchmark – but we need to do more to ensure we are supporting and mentoring younger people into leadership roles in education.

“My hope is that today will draw attention to the diverse school contexts that Australia’s principals work in and the vital contribution that they make.”

Competition for the honorary positions has been fierce with many schools selecting their principal through an application and rigorous interview process.

Today (June 6) PAI will support a social media feed where students can post their comments and thoughts about what they are experiencing throughout the day.

**For interview set-ups and best schools and ‘talent’ for photo and filming opportunities, please contact:**

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*Principals Australia Institute (PAI) provides professional learning, leadership development and support to the nation’s 10,000 principals and schools. PAI is a not-for-profit organisation supporting primary and secondary schools across all schooling sectors (government, Catholic and independent).*