

APPA Submission to

Improving Occupational Mobility

Background

The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) is the national professional association for primary school principals in Australia. APPA represents affiliated state and territory Government, Catholic and Independent primary principal associations, and through these associations, over 7600 primary principals and schools across the nation. It is the national voice on national issues and speaks directly to the Federal Government on matters that concern primary school principals and their school communities.

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APPA gives strong support to the proposal for introducing automatic mutual recognition (AMR) for teachers, and to the draft legislation proposed to amend the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*.

In the context of APPA's mission, our association has maintained a position of strong advocacy for every student in every location to have access to high quality teaching staff and high-quality school leaders. No student should be disadvantaged due to a lack of supply in one jurisdiction that could easily be filled by skilled and trained teacher and/or school leaders from other jurisdictions, with improved occupational mobility across state and territory borders.

In the context of ACARA's work on the Australian Curriculum, and AITSL's work on national teaching and leadership standards, together with developing work around ensuring more consistency in Initial Teacher Education course across all Australian universities, there would seem to be no good reason to make occupational mobility a continued difficult process, with non-aligned, complicated and onerous teacher registration requirements in different state and territory jurisdictions.

While it is understood that education in its implementation is predominantly a state and territory responsibility, APPA is always concerned to view the national education landscape.

The big picture is that every student in every school needs fair and equitable access to the best teachers and the best school leaders. Introducing automatic mutual recognition (AMR) for teachers, and legislating to amend the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*, can only serve to make this a more easily and efficiently achievable goal.

APPA is pleased to see the acknowledgement that established safeguards for students, workers and the public, particularly in the area of Working With Children Check or equivalent legislation will be retained, and APPA absolutely supports this approach.



It is timely that these legislative changes are emerging in a COVID environment, where equity and access to education resources (including the best teachers and leaders) in regional, rural and remote areas have been highlighted.

Cross-pollination amongst teachers in schools has great value, and greater opportunities for new teachers and emerging leaders, to develop their career pathways, can only serve to enrich the education profession, and in turn the educational opportunities for our nation's Primary students.

APPA looks forward to these legislative changes being enacted swiftly and to seeing our Australian students, schools and Primary leaders thriving as a result.



Malcolm Elliott

President

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