

Citation for Professor Phil Riley

'Hero of Primary Education' Award

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The term “hero” conjures up thoughts of courage, perhaps sacrifice, and certainly dedication to causes larger than oneself. It is these attributes, in the context of research and advocacy, for which we recognise Professor Phil Riley today.

The *Australian Principal Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing Survey*, which has been devised and conducted each year since 2010 under Phil’s leadership, has shone a light on the circumstances of the principalship across our nation.

This research has brought the demands of the role of principal out of the specific domain of the profession, and into the light of public and political interest and systemic responsibility.

For over ten years Professor Riley has briefed all sections of the media, Government Ministers, Departments and Offices of Education, school boards and parent groups about the findings of the research.

Professor Riley has resolutely presented this high-quality research, at times in the face of criticism. He has made clear and bold recommendations, which have direct implications for major change across all parts of the education community – particularly including school principals.

In 2017, as an extension of his research work, Professor Riley was also instrumental in collating the results of the survey into a report, called *Back to Balance: How Policy and Practice Can Make Primary Principals Highly Effective*.

Phil Riley’s contribution to the profession of school leadership is a beacon of research and evidence-based advocacy. Phil has been courageous and determined. His work has been, and will continue to be, positively impactful in regard to policy, public awareness and the practice of the principalship across Australia for years to come.

It is with great respect and much delight that we present this award today.

Congratulations Professor Phil Riley - a true ‘Hero of Primary Education’.

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19 October, 2021

