

Invitation to participate in research about your experience of running a school in contemporary Australia

The [Principals Australia Research Foundation](#) (PARF) have funded AGPPA for research with practicing Principals into their experiences of running a school in contemporary Australia. We want to understand how you make sense of your school, as a part of, and as a complex system* in order to appraise how a service lens might be useful *(i.e. drivers, outcomes, how your school actually operates).

You will find more information in the '[About the Research](#)' section of this email.

WHO WE'D LOVE TO TALK TO

We are seeking interested Principals who have up to 90 minutes available for a confidential and anonymised conversation in May, June or July. This will be a structured conversation about you and your experience, and the practical supports that have helped you in your role.

If this sounds like you, we ask that you complete this [SURVEY](#) to help us meet the selection criteria. The survey is short and asks:

- Where are you located? (We are looking for multiple representatives from each State and Territory)
- What type of School you have experience with? (Government, Catholic, Independent)
- How long you've been a Primary School Principal?

Your participation in the [survey](#) itself will also provide the research with valuable quantitative data.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

Most school principals would agree that they came to the position having been trained, gained experience and been rewarded for their education delivery. Yet once they assume the position of Principal (and Deputy on the way there) the role surpasses simply implementing a vision for pedagogy, guided by an 'instructional leadership' model and a Principal Standard. Traditionally, this career evolution is seen as a movement from education to additional administration or leadership capabilities. However, in a contemporary setting, where the school facility and its staff are seen as a service delivery hub, the model of being a Principal needs to evolve to include key service elements in order to be leader, manager, bureaucrat, community connector, and innovator.

This Research Project is utilising the discipline of service design, and builds on a number of years of collaboration between education and service design specialists to explore the question:

“What is a contemporary understanding of what it means to be a Primary School Principal; and can acknowledging the Principal as an Education Leader through a Service Delivery lens/mindset be key to what a Principal Service Leadership Model, based on education service leadership, means for the sector?”

We will be looking at some artefacts that have been used with a view to evolving these as potential tools to support Principals.

1. **A School Strategic Framework** that connects the School and its philosophy
- **why** we exist and **what** our intent is.
2. **A School Operating Ecosystem** within a set operating context
- **who** is involved in the different elements of a school.
3. **A School Service Offering and Value Proposition Framework** encompassing Management Services, Education Services, Administration Services and Campus Services.
- **how** we operationalise service delivery.

WHAT NEXT?

- If you're interested - please complete the [SURVEY](#) by Wednesday, 11 May.
- We'll be in touch with you directly with a time for the conversation.
- If you're not interviewed, the Project reports monthly to AGPPA and you can find out how it's progressing through the Principals' Association within your jurisdiction. A final report will be submitted to PARF by December 2022.