



Summary of feedback from delegates attending the APPA Primary Education Summit Parliament House, Canberra, 26 May 2026

Possible next steps:

1. **Develop a national APPA position on primary schools as early intervention platforms**, clearly stating what schools can do, what they should not be expected to do, and what support is required.
2. **Advocate for funded wellbeing and community liaison roles in primary schools**, including models that connect families with health, disability, early childhood and community services without adding to principal workload.
3. **Map effective models already operating across jurisdictions**, including Mental Health in Primary Schools, Our Place, full-service school pilots, local community hub models and allied health partnerships.
4. **Push for cross-portfolio funding and accountability**, so education, health, disability, early childhood and family services jointly support children rather than shifting responsibility to schools.
5. **Ensure First Nations education is embedded as core business**, including cultural safety, curriculum truth-telling, support for First Nations educators and stronger pathways for First Nations leadership.
6. **Provide national agencies with practical feedback from school leaders**, so curriculum, assessment, teaching standards, workforce policy and evidence resources are useful, coherent and grounded in classroom reality.
7. **Build a shared evidence base from delegates' lived experience**, including examples of what is working, what is unsustainable, and what needs urgent policy attention.
8. **Continue to position APPA as the national voice for primary school leaders**, advocating for primary education as the foundation of learning, wellbeing, equity and long-term national productivity.

The strongest message from the day was simple:

Primary schools are ready to be part of the solution, but they cannot be the system's safety net without the structure, funding, workforce and authority to do the work well.