

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Primary Principals Association announces New President and Deputy President

Canberra, 28 September 2026 - The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) is pleased to announce the election of Debbie (Deb) Hansen as its new President and Martin Lubrano as its new Deputy President, effective January 2027. Together, they will provide experienced national leadership for the association, representing more than 7,600 government, Catholic and independent primary school principals across Australia.

Ms Hansen succeeds Angela Falkenberg as President and brings more than 20 years' experience as a Queensland state school principal, having led seven diverse schools throughout her career. Currently serving as President of the Queensland Association of State School Principals (QASSP), Deb is a QASSP Life Member and has held significant leadership positions at both state and national levels, including service on the APPA Board and National Advisory Council.

Speaking on behalf of the APPA Board, President, Angela Falkenberg, congratulated Ms Hansen on her appointment.

"Deb brings a unique combination of frontline principal experience, association leadership and national advocacy. She has consistently championed the voice of practising principals and understands the opportunities and challenges facing primary schools across Australia. APPA is delighted to have a leader of her calibre guiding the organisation into its next chapter."

Speaking about her election, Ms Hansen said she was honoured to lead the national association and advocate for the voices of primary school principals across Australia. Her priorities include strengthening principal voice, addressing workforce sustainability, reducing administrative burden, promoting educational equity, and ensuring practical outcomes for schools and students through national advocacy.

APPA also welcomes the election of Martin Lubrano as Deputy President. A highly respected educational leader and Immediate Past National President of IPSHA, Mr Lubrano has held senior leadership positions at Trinity Grammar School and Barker College and has been an active contributor to APPA through its National Advisory Council and Board.

Mr Lubrano brings extensive experience in educational leadership, national policy advocacy, and sector collaboration. Throughout his career he has championed primary education, contributed to key national education reference groups, and led initiatives that strengthen educational opportunities and student outcomes, particularly for indigenous students and school communities.

Together, Ms Hansen and Mr Lubrano will lead APPA's ongoing work to strengthen the voice of primary school principals, influence national education reform, and work collaboratively with governments and stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities facing Australia's primary education sector.

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About APPA

The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) represents more than 7,600 government, Catholic and independent primary school principals across Australia. APPA advocates nationally on behalf of primary school leaders and works to improve educational outcomes for all Australian children.

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