



Australian Secondary
Principals' Association

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Executive Summary



At the end of my first 12 months as President of the Australian Secondary Principals Association (ASPA), I'm pleased to present this overview of our activities and achievements over the past year. From October 2023 to October 2024, ASPA has worked steadily to promote the interests of public secondary school leaders, and their communities nationwide and strengthen our position as the leading voice in Australian secondary education.

Our principals, leaders, and communities face a complex and evolving landscape. The ongoing teacher shortage continues to strain resources and impact student learning. The rapid pace of technological change, including the implications of social media and AI, presents opportunities and challenges for schools. We grapple with increasingly complex curricula and growing expectations for differentiation and inclusive practices. Furthermore, schools are increasingly serving as the heart of their communities, addressing growing

vulnerability and providing essential care and well-being services to students and families. ASPA recognises these multifaceted challenges and advocates for full funding and meaningful collaboration in the design of solutions that support our schools.

This year has been a period of significant engagement and advocacy. ASPA has connected with principals and school communities across the country, listening to their concerns and amplifying their voices. We have demonstrated national leadership through our National Education Summit in March, contributing to policy discussions through formal advisory roles, publications, and media appearances. We have actively lobbied politicians and policymakers, ensuring that school leaders' perspectives are considered in key decisions. Our new website and expanded social media presence have broadened our reach and influence. Internally, we have focused on strengthening our governance, administration, and financial health to enhance our effectiveness. This sustained effort has culminated in several major achievements, detailed in the following section.

ASPA Reunited as the truly National Peak Body

The reunification of the Victorian Association of State Secondary School Principals (VASSP) and the New South Wales Secondary Principals Council (NSWSPC) with ASPA through formal affiliation in March this year was a major milestone. This historic re-unification brought together all state and territory public secondary school principals' associations around the ASPA banner as the national peak body for the first time in a decade. This unification positions ASPA as the undisputed national voice for Australia's more than 2200 government secondary school principals, who look after well over 1.1 million students. As VASSP President Colin Axup stated at the time, "Working together, we can powerfully represent the collective interests of secondary schools nationwide and lead the national secondary education dialogue."



All Australian Education Ministers Commit to Principal and School Leader Wellbeing

Through close engagement with the Federal Minister for Education Jason Clare MP, culminating in his participation in our 2023 National Education Summit at the Australian Parliament House, ASPA secured a public commitment from the Federal Government to have the issue of Principal Health and Wellbeing added to the ongoing agenda of the Education Ministers' Meeting (EMM).



Executive Summary

This led to Australia's Education Ministers expressing their continued support and commitment to the well-being of principals and school leaders, following a joint ASPA & APPA (Australian Primary Principals' Association) presentation to the EMM group in Perth in April, with renewed expectation for meaningful investment in school leader wellbeing and efficacy in each state and territory.



Principals' National Advisory Group

ASPA was instrumental in securing a 'roundtable' meeting with Minister Jason Clare and all the national principal representative groups. ASPA worked behind the scenes to coordinate a strategic approach to maximise the opportunity. In a demonstration of solidarity, the peak associations presented jointly developed proposals for research and professional support mechanisms to retain and sustain school leaders and for ongoing engagement on national education policy. Minister Clare committed to ongoing collaboration with the

nine associations through a national reference group that will become a regular part of his engagement with the profession, ensuring the voice of the nation's principals is heard on national education policy.

Looking ahead, ASPA remains committed to championing the needs of Australian secondary schools and their communities. Our continued advocacy will prioritise full and equitable funding for all public schools, working towards a long-term agenda for a common, fairer funding and regulatory framework across the entire education sector. We will advocate for innovative and relevant approaches to celebrating student and school success, including more flexible pathways for learning, assessment, and certification. System transformation will be a key focus, emphasising school organisation models that reduce workload and empower educators to deliver students' the best possible learning opportunities. Crucially, we will continue pushing for the resources, support, and professional learning opportunities that enable school leaders to thrive as effective, healthy education and community leaders. Planning is underway for our 2024 policy and advocacy platform, culminating in a strategically timed National Education Summit in 2025 amidst the next federal election, to ensure that education remains a priority for our nation's future.

I sincerely thank all Australian secondary principals for their unwavering dedication and tireless work throughout the year. As the school year draws to a close, I wish you a restful and rejuvenating break. ASPA looks forward to continuing to champion your interests in the coming year. I commend this report to your attention and encourage you to remain actively involved with your local state and territory association. Our collective strength lies in unity, and by working together, we can achieve even greater progress for Australian secondary education.

Andy Mison
President/Executive Director



Who we are

The Australian Secondary Principals' Association (ASPA) is the national peak professional association representing Principals, Deputy Principals and other school leaders employed in Australia's public secondary schools.

Our Board is made up of the jurisdictional association leaders representing their members at the National level.



ASPA BOARD MEMBERS 2024



ANDY MISON

President / Executive Director ASPA



Mark Breckenridge

Board Chair. President, QSPA



Robyn Thorpe

Deputy Chair. President, NTPA



Mat Grining

Treasurer. President, TPA



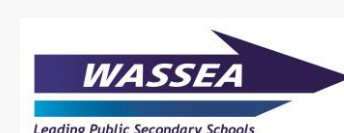
Simon Vaughan

Director. Co-President, ACTPA



Melissa Gillett

Director. President, WASSEA



Denise Lofts

Director, President NSWSPC



Jayne Heath

Director. CEO, SASPA



Colin Axup

Director. President, VASSP



Nikki Pag-ong

Executive Officer, ASPA





LEADERSHIP

ASPA is the leading voice for secondary school education in Australia, influencing and informing national education policy on behalf of all state and territory affiliates.



LEARNING

ASPA fosters the learning, experience and expertise of Australian secondary school leaders as a unique and pre-eminent professional discipline.



ADVOCACY

ASPA is the trusted national advocate for the professional interests of all public secondary school leaders and the equitable advancement of the communities they lead.



GOVERNANCE

ASPA is a leading not-for-profit organisation sustained by collaborative national partnerships and shared moral purpose.

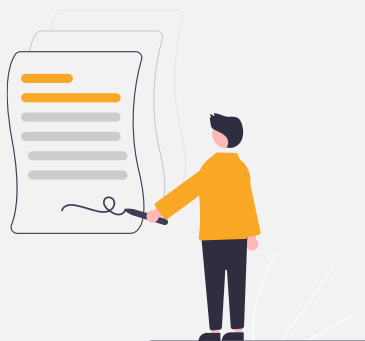




ASPA LEADERSHIP MEANS



Publish agenda-leading positions on current and key issues



Provide policy and service delivery advice to policy makers and other agencies



Develop our support and resource base through expanded membership options



Represent state & territory affiliates as priority stakeholders, and engage constructively with key partners



SUPPORTING ACTIONS 2023-2024



25 NGO Engagements & Research Advisory Roles

4

Parliamentary and Senate Inquiry Submissions



16 Articles & Blog posts

21

National Statutory Authority Meetings (AITSL, ACARA, AERO, ESA)



Representation on the National School Reform Agreement Ministerial Reference Group



10 Commonwealth Department of Education Meetings

4

Position Statements

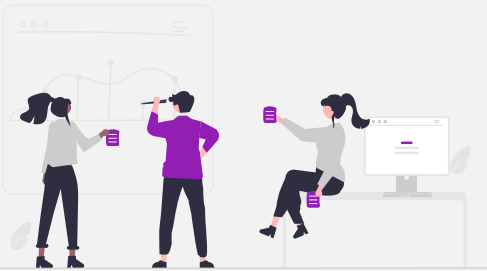


Representation on the Board of AITSL

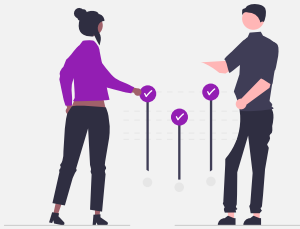




ASPA LEARNING MEANS



Foster and engage with research that informs policy and advocacy



Share and engage with research and learning resources that strengthen the principalship



Facilitate meetings, workshops, conferences and support national sharing of learning, experience and expertise in our profession



Contribute to principal accreditation and development programs

SUPPORTING ACTIONS 2023-2024

9 Research Organisation Partnerships & Engagements

10 Affiliated State & Territory Member Associations Conferences, Councils and Events



2024 National Education Summit at Australian Parliament House



2024 ASPA Principals' Council at The National Press Club



5 Research Projects

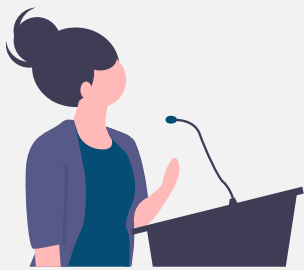
3 International Conferences & Events

22 Industry Associate Meetings & Events (AEU, ACCSO, APPA, ICP, SPANZ etc.)





ASPA ADVOCACY MEANS



Elevate our role in the national debate



Engage with practising principals through forums, surveys, meetings and school visits to inform and maintain currency



Represent the profession with governments and other authorities



Advocate for policies that will improve the health, wellbeing and efficacy of school leaders and communities



SUPPORTING ACTIONS 2023-2024



2 Prime Minister Meetings



Establishment of the National Principals' Advisory Group



7 State & Territory Education Minister Meetings



5 Federal Education Minister Meetings



Secured EMM commitment to Principals' Health & Wellbeing



9 Meetings with other Federal MPs and Senators



1 Education Ministers' Meeting (EMM)

21

Media Releases

26

Radio, TV and Print Interviews





ASPA GOVERNANCE MEANS



Maintain financial
viability and
risk management



Improve efficiency and
productivity in
administration



Build a trusted
professional profile via
our website and social
media channels



Communicate effectively
with members and
stakeholders

SUPPORTING ACTIONS 2023-2024

11248%

Website Traffic increase

255%

Increase in Website Subscribers
and Social media Followers



12 Industry Partner Meetings



Increased Affiliate Association
Membership from 6 to 8



Reduced administrative costs



8 Board Meetings



Increased Revenue

