



# Victorian Principals Association

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## VPA Media Release

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### **Victorian Principals united in their concern with increasing workload and demands of the role today**

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) has expressed concern following the release of the 2017 Australian Principal Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing Survey, which reveals steadily increasing pressure on school principals and deputies in all sectors, across all states.

The VPA has been advocating for increased support for education leaders as a result of the consistent findings of Associate Professor Philip Riley's work and recommendations. The highly respected Professor from the Australian Catholic University Institute for Positive Psychology and Education, said school leaders needed more support because in many cases their health was suffering due to the pressure of the work. "As principals are retiring, other senior teachers at the top of their game are saying they are not prepared to take on the role of school leader because of the punishing workload".

Anne-Maree Kliman, VPA President said "this is the sixth consecutive report demonstrating alarming concerns in the area of school leader wellbeing. As a professional association we care deeply for the wellbeing of our members and sector colleagues and have seen an increasing need for support of our members in this area. Additionally concerning is the escalating problem of threats, violence and bullying towards principal class members and teachers".

Ms Kliman said that "if we can improve the work life balance and wellbeing of our education leaders in this country then the entire student population will benefit. We welcome practical and effective action and support the reports recommendation for a national strategy and collective response."

We thank Professor Phillip Riley for his extensive work in this important area and now welcome real and positive change for our principals and school leaders across Victoria and the nation.

VPA represents the professional interests of over 1,000 principals and aspiring leaders in Victorian primary schools.

**Further enquiries and interviews;**  
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