

IPSHA Media Release
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2021 WORLD TEACHERS' DAY - Shining the Light on our Teachers

On behalf of its members, the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to teachers across Australia on World Teachers Day, 29 October 2021, and thanks them for their hard work, dedication and continual focus on ensuring students are at the heart of our work.

Paul Clegg, IPSHA President, reiterated that teaching is a vital profession in our society, and education has the power to change lives (Alice Springs Education Declaration, 2019).

Evidence demonstrates that quality teaching and school leadership are the most pivotal determinants in shaping the achievement and growth of students (Hattie, 2009; OECD, 2019).

However, school staff do not always receive the recognition and respect they deserve for their contributions to the success and wellbeing of future generations.

The Heffernan et al. (2019) study of *Perceptions of Teachers and Teaching in Australia* found that while there was trust and respect for teachers expressed by the public, many teachers did not feel valued or appreciated. Respondents of the study acknowledged the very real challenges that teachers are faced with daily, and how the role of teaching is deeply complex, increasing in intensity, and having a serious impact on teachers' health and wellbeing (McGrath-Champ et al., 2018; Stacey et al., 2020).

"The manner in which teachers adapted so quickly and professionally to the challenges of remote learning due to the global COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in many people's perception of teachers. The role of teachers is vitally important and influential, and this should be centred in discussions about the teaching profession more broadly as we shine the light on our teachers." said Mr Clegg.

Hattie, J, 2009, Visible learning: A synthesis of 800+ meta-analyses on achievement. London: Routledge.

Heffernan, A, Longmuir, F, Bright, D, & Kim, M, 2019, Perceptions of teachers and teaching in Australia (Issue November). Monash University: Faculty of Education.

OECD, 2019, TALIS 2018 results (volume 2): Teachers and school leaders as valued professionals. OECD Publishing.

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IPSHA represents more than 380 Heads nationwide. Its members lead schools in the independent sector, ranging from ELC to Middle School.