

Report: Teacher Quality Not Rewarded

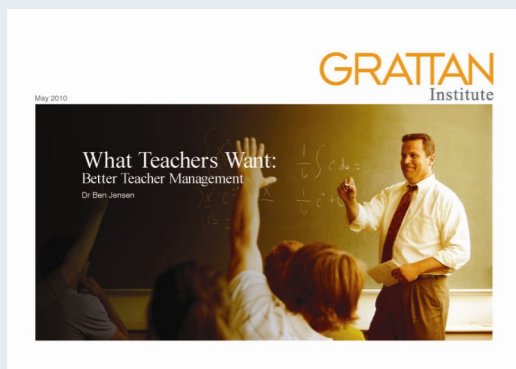
A new report by the Grattan Institute reveals good teachers in Australia are not being properly recognised and the worst are not being penalised.

The publication *'What Teachers Want: Better Teacher Management'* calls for an overhaul of the nation's systems for evaluating teachers.

The data comes from the OECD TALIS survey of 90,000 teachers across 23 countries.

The report shows that in Australia:

- 91% of teachers say their most talented colleagues do not receive the most recognition and a similar number say innovative teaching is not rewarded.
- Only 8% believe they would receive any recognition for doing their job better.
- About 93% report their school principal does not take steps to address persistently underperforming teachers.
- 92% of teachers work in schools where the principal never reduces the annual pay rise for underperforming teachers.
- Almost 71% say teachers with sustained poor performance are not dismissed.
- 63% feel teacher evaluation is done only because supervisors are obliged to do it.



[Read the report](#)

Specialists For Low-Performing Schools

Areas with high rates of children falling behind in key developmental areas will be targeted by specialists trained to fast-track their progress.

The \$2.6 million 'Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) Local Champions' program will support nominated people or organisations with local experience and expertise to work in at-risk communities.

New detailed data from the AEDI program shows almost a quarter of the state's first-year schoolchildren are behind in key areas even before they begin.

These specialists will be charged with undertaking detailed analysis of the data and tailoring new teaching programs to aid the specific needs of children who have fallen behind.

[Full Story](#)

Sharing Of Principals

As a solution to the looming shortage of school leaders, the SA Secondary Principals Association has suggested the implementation of 'executive principals' (leaders of two or more campuses).

President Jim Davies said it has been trialled in other jurisdictions, such as the UK, and in many circumstances was found to be successful.

He said the sharing of principals would help schools share resources and mentor aspiring principals.

DECS states the capacity for schools to share principals was an option at several state schools, where there are separate middle and senior school campuses.

[More](#)

Annual Bonus Trial In Victoria

With recent talks regarding the need to improve teacher quality & reward high-performing teachers, it comes as no surprise that a trial of paying teachers annual bonuses is currently underway.

Annual bonuses of up to \$6000 for teachers in Victorian public schools are being implemented, to assess whether rewarding quality teachers improves their effectiveness and their students' performance.

Under the scheme, individual teachers assessed as the most effective over the previous year will be singled out for a financial bonus.

Teachers will be assessed against a range of measures, including:

- The progress of their students
- Their impact on the school and their colleagues
- Their involvement with the school community
- Innovations & research within the school.

[Full Story](#)

Year 7 Maths A Challenge

Principals & teachers' associations state the national maths curriculum is written to encompass Year 7 in secondary school - even though some states still have Year 7 in primary school.

The Maths Association of SA said teachers who were 'struggling' with upper primary or lower secondary level maths would be under pressure to teach at a higher level in the new course with little professional development training.

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Tony Abbott's Spending Cuts

It has been revealed that Opposition Leader Tony Abbott plans to cut education programs in order to deliver savings.

The computers in classrooms program, courses to upgrade teachers' skills, and trade training centres would disappear.

The Coalition says it is working on its own version of the digital education revolution scheme, but details would be unveiled closer to the election.

Funding to the BER program would also be cut, with Mr. Abbott stating he would improve existing community structures, such as school buildings and sporting grounds, rather than build new ones.

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'School Post' In Parliament

This month, SA Parliament sat for the first time this year.

On May 12th, newly elected member for Adelaide Rachel Sanderson (who replaced the long-standing Jane Lomax-Smith) discussed her high priority for education and the high demand for a second campus at Adelaide High School.

Outlined in Hansard, the official parliamentary transcript, Ms Sanderson has made reference to the latest edition of SAASSO's School Post magazine - quoting the front cover as well as results from our parent feedback section.

[Read Hansard](#)