

# Principals' 10-year stay

LAUREN NOVAK  
EDUCATION REPORTER

PRINCIPALS could stay at a school for 10 years without re-applying – twice as long as allowed now. And parents would have no say in their re-appointment – if the proposed changes are adopted by the Education Department.

At present principals must re-apply for their position after five years and be subject to scrutiny by parent representatives, as well as the department.

A department paper also recom-

**Education**now...  
adelaidenow.com.au  
**LIFTOUT INSIDE**  
**The Advertiser**  
**EVERY TUESDAY**

mends restricting applicants' CVs to two pages, down from five, and introducing a screening process to vet them before they are seen by the selection panel – currently a

district director, principal, union representative and parent.

Principals have welcomed the proposals, saying they will streamline the selection process and make it easier for good leaders.

But the South Australian Association of State School Organisations, representing parents of public school students, is concerned the changes would "dumb down" the selection process, diminish the quality of applicants and remove parents' say in who is appointed.

"Under this plan you could ap-

point a principal in 2009 and may not get another chance to have any influence on who's running your school until nearly 2020," association director David Knuckey said.

It is the first review of the process since its introduction in 1997.

The department website says the recommendations "do not represent a policy position", but will inform consultation. In an emailed statement, a spokeswoman said the eventual new policy would "ensure the most effective recruitment and selection practices, in order to ap-

point the best school leaders".

SA Primary Principals Association president Steve Portlock said about 80 per cent of incumbent principals were retained after their initial five-year contract. "Five years is actually not long enough to bring about the changes most leaders want in a school," he said.

SA Secondary Principals Association president Jim Davies said the changes to reviewing contracts "make a lot of sense" because the current process was "extremely time-consuming and demanding".



**PLANTATION:** Zoos SA president Heather Caddick with her panda mascot at the bamboo plantation in Bolivar yesterday.

Picture: MATT TURNER

## Pander to a giant hunger

CARA JENKIN  
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

TWO Giant Pandas coming to live in Adelaide also have giant appetites.

Wang Wang and Funi will each eat 20kg a day of bamboo, which makes up 95 per cent of their diet.

Zoos SA has teamed with SA Water to grow a 10ha plantation of bamboo near the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plantation will use about 10 million litres of recycled water annually from the plant.

Zoos SA curator of plants Jeff Lugg said the plantation would provide enough bamboo for the two pandas and any panda cubs born in the next 10 years.

"It's a big operation – it's a major challenge," he said. "Pandas have a poor digestive system and bamboo has a poor nutrition value so they will eat about 20 sticks a day."

Zoos SA president Heather Caddick said preparations were on track for the pandas' arrival in early October and the enclosure at Adelaide Zoo was almost complete.



A prenatal exercise that can help reduce your baby's risk of breathing difficulties.

oneadaysuperfood.com.au



The one a day superfood  
aussie apples