

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)

The national voice of parents of students in Australia's public schools and their school communities

MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday 30 August 2007

ACSSO Supports Primary Teachers – Vital Role Says President and Executive Director

In a major statement today, the President and Executive Director of ACSSO called for more support for primary school teachers.

ACSSO President, Jenny Branch and Executive Director, Terry Aulich were responding officially to the Australian Primary Principals Association Draft Charter released last month for consultation.

"Primary school leaders are a major influence on young people. They need both moral and system support", Jenny Branch said.

"If we are requiring primary school teachers to produce literate, numerate and socially well-balanced students, we need to provide support from home and also build in school support such as guidance, welfare officers, specialist literacy and numeracy tutors, the provision of professional development for teachers and less red tape being demanded from principals", said Ms Branch.

Mr Aulich said that at last years APPA Conference, ACSSO had committed its organisation to gaining a better deal for primary school teachers. "Primary school teachers are fundamentally important in that they give young people the first major start in their formal education", he said.

Ms Branch said that she and the Executive Director of ACSSO would be meeting with the APPA President Ms Leonie Trimper to exchange views about the APPA Draft Charter.

"The draft charter is a step towards focusing attention on what should be core issues for the primary school curriculum and what goes on in primary schools", she said. "At the same time we need to ensure that areas like music, the arts and values education are resourced properly and integrated into primary school life".

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