



**Hon DAN TEHAN MP – Minister for Education**

The Hon Dan Tehan MP is the Member for Wannon in Victoria. He is Minister for Education and was sworn in on 28 August 2018.

Mr Tehan served as Minister for Social Services from 20 December 2017. Prior to this, he was the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Defence Personnel, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac.

Mr Tehan was elected to Federal Parliament in 2010 and has held positions as the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security; Chair of the Victorian Consultative Panel for the Black Spot Programme;

Chair of the Coalition Policy Committee on Economics and Finance; Co-Chair of the Parliamentarians Supporting Cancer Causes; Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Youth Mental Health, and; Chair of the Coalition Friends of Tourism.

Prior to entering Parliament, Mr Tehan worked in agriculture in Australia and overseas. He has worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade where he held various roles, including as a diplomat at the Australian Embassy in Mexico. Mr Tehan worked at senior levels of the Australian Government, including as a Senior Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Chief of Staff to the Minister for Small Business and Tourism. He also worked as the Director of Trade Policy and International Affairs at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and as Deputy State Director for the Victorian Liberal Party.

Mr Tehan has Masters Degrees in International Relations and Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Mr Tehan is married and lives in Hamilton. He is a passionate supporter of the Richmond Football Club and enjoys spending time outdoors with his family.



**BILAWARA LEE**

Aunty Bilawara Lee is an Elder of the Larrakia Nation of Darwin Northern Territory, Australia

She is the Larrakia Academic in Residence at Charles Darwin University and is a director on several Boards and Advisory Committees.

Aunty Bilawara is acknowledged and respected as a healer and teacher of the ancient wisdoms of Aboriginal Spirituality and Healing and is an internationally published author with two books *Star Dreaming* and *Healing from the Dilly Bag*. (Aunty was unable to attend and we welcomed Trent Lee)



### **HILARY DIXON**

Hilary Dixon joined the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) in 2016 as the Senior Manager of Curriculum, where she manages projects that support national curriculum implementation.

Specialising in curriculum development, both nationally and at a state level, Hilary's work is grounded in school experiences where she led academic teams in planning and implementing innovative responses to new curriculum and led whole of school professional learning improvement.

Ms Dixon holds a BA/Hons/Dip Ed from the University of Sydney and is an active member of a number of professional associations.

Hilary lives on Sydney's north shore and enjoys both domestic and international travel and spending time with her family.



### **MATTHEW McCARTHY**

Mr Matthew McCarthy is currently the Assistant Director of the Senior Curriculum and Assessment Branch within the Curriculum Services Division of the QCAA. The Branch is focussed on the development of high-quality curriculum and external assessment and working in partnership with schools to assist with their implementation.

Before joining QCAA, Matt worked in a range of school settings as a Head of School, a Senior School Deputy Principal, a Dean of Students, a HOD and a classroom teacher of HPE, Maths, Science and Biology.

Matt enjoys travelling overseas when the opportunity presents, recently returning from a trip to Italy and Spain



### **LEANNE NIXON**

Leanne is a long serving educator with a passionate commitment to public education, particularly with regard to realising the value and purpose of education to increase human capital and improve social outcomes for individuals.

Leanne was the Foundation Principal of the Queensland Academy for Health Sciences based at Griffith University on the Gold Coast and the Executive Principal of Calamvale Community College, and has held teaching and principal positions in a diverse range of state schools across Queensland.

As Assistant Director-General, State Schools – Performance she developed innovative strategies to improve student outcomes. During Leanne's tenure in this role, her achievements include: the development of a statewide school improvement model; initiatives to build principal and teacher capabilities; and curriculum, teaching and learning innovations to lift the outcomes for all Queensland state school students.

Leanne has served on a number of advisory committees and Boards relevant to the field of education, including the Queensland Educational Leadership Institute, Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Northern Territory Board of Studies

Leanne is currently the Deputy Chief Executive, Northern Territory Department of Education.



### **BRIAN O'NEILL**

Brian O'Neill is the principal of the Calen District State College, a combined sector school (P-12) in a small rural community in Central Queensland, a position he has held for twenty years. He has been a teacher and school leader for thirty-seven years, all which has been spent in rural schools in Queensland. For the past four years, Brian has also been a casual academic at CQUniversity's Mackay campus, where he is involved in teacher education.

In addition, Brian holds the positions of State President of the Queensland Association of Combined Sector Leaders (QACSL) and President of Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia (SPERA).

Brian was born, reared and educated in Normanton. He worked as a teachers' aide at the Normanton State School and Secondary Department (now known as Normanton P-10 State School) while he completed senior through the Secondary Correspondence School (now known as the Brisbane School of Distance Education). After graduating from James Cook University with a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) degree, Brian returned to Normanton to teach. He also taught at the Isis District State High School before becoming Head of Department (English) at Mirani State High School. He then became Deputy Principal at Sarina State High School before taking up the principalship at Calen.

Brian has a Master of Learning Management from CQUniversity and last year was awarded a Companion of the University in recognition of his long term support of the institution and its programs. He intends to commence his doctorate with Flinders University in 2020.

Brian is the author of three books – A Unique School in the Gulf; Taming the Isis; and Education on the Baffle.



### **ANDREW PIERPOINT**

Andrew Pierpoint is President of the Australian Secondary Principals' Association – the peak body for School Leaders across Australia. He previously was President of the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association for four (4) years.

Andrew has had extensive experience, over 35 years, in High Schools as a science teacher, Head of Department (Science), Deputy Principal and Principal as well as having several system positions in the support of Principals. Throughout his career, Andrew has worked in complex rural and remote communities through to large regional and metropolitan schools. He has led communities and reference groups at district, regional, state and national levels.

Andrew's special interests are the provision of high quality professional learning for school leaders, school leader wellbeing and is personally highly active in school sport – particularly cricket and golf.

Andrew has demonstrated a passion for State education in Queensland for many years and possess an excellent understanding of the Principalship from first hand experience. Most importantly, Andrew has a genuine desire to make a meaningful difference for school leaders in the application of their ever increasing, complex roles in schools and the broader communities they work in.



### **MATTHEW JOHNSON**

Matthew Johnson has been with the NSW Department of Education NSW for 30 years and originally visual arts and music trained. He has held positions in high schools, central schools, primary schools, regional and head office positions, in rural, remote and metropolitan areas. He has been working in special school settings for 20 years and has been a principal of four special schools and head of two specialist settings.

Matthew has held positions as State Coordinator of Behaviour Programs NSW DEC, was a NSW Premiers' Special Education Scholar, an International Fire Instructor (Lead Trainer Botswana Fire Program - NSW Rural Fire Service), Assistant Regional Director State-wide School Performance – Special Schools (QLD), the Immediate Past President of the NSW Special Education Principals' and Leaders' Association and current Vice President (SEPLA - NSW) and is the CEO of the Australian Special Education Principals' Association (ASEPA). He is a member of the NSW Secondary Principals Council and the NSW Primary principals' Association.

Matthew is currently the principal of Glenvale Special School, on the Central Coast of NSW, which caters for 160 students across three campuses.



### **BRITANY ROESTENBURG**

Britany Roestenburg has been the principal of Nakara Primary school in Darwin since 2015. Prior to this Britany has held leadership positions in rural and remote Western Australia and Tasmania.

Britany is currently President of the Northern Territory Principals association. She also holds the position of Secretary for the Australian Government Primary Principals Association (AGPPA).

AGPPA's core focus is to provide a unified voice to promote and advocate for government primary principals and schools within Australia representing over 5,300 government primary schools.

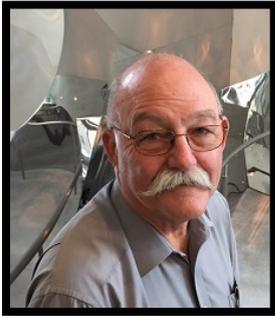
Britany completed her master's degree in Instructional Leadership (Education) from University of Melbourne in 2015. Britany views a collaborative school environment as the key to creating successful teachers and students. She believes partnerships with families and community partners are essential to enriching the experience of a school. She is passionate about igniting curiosity and wonder in both children and staff and developing students as future focused 21st century learners.

Her favourite hobbies including reading, bush walking and cooking.



### **VICKI BAYLIS**

Vicki Baylis is the Chief Executive of the Northern Territory Department of Education. Vicki has worked in education for over 35 years and has a strong commitment to public education, working in partnership with a broad range of stakeholders to lift performance from the classroom to the boardroom.



### **DR DON ZOELLNER** Ph.D, M.Ed.Ad., Grad.Dip., B.Sc.Ed. University Fellow

Dr Don Zoellner has worked in the school, vocational and higher education sectors in the Northern Territory since 1973, retiring from a pro-vice-chancellor position at Charles Darwin University in 2010.

Dr Zoellner has held appointments in both Alice Springs and Darwin including acting principal at Darwin High School, principal Alice Springs High School and Executive Director of the former Centralian College in Alice Springs. He has served as a member of the Board of

Directors of the Enterprise and Career Education Foundation and Chairperson of the Australian Principals' Associations Professional Development Council.

His formal qualifications include a Bachelor of Science in Education, Master's Degree in Educational Administration and a Graduate Diploma in Senior Executive Public Sector Management. Dr Zoellner's PhD thesis was in the area of policy development and implementation of vocational education and training.

#### Research Interests

- Comparing community engagement structures
- VET policy making and implementation
- Northern Territory VET history
- Public policy making and implementation
- Vocational education and training
- The relationship between governments and markets
- Governance
- Young people and mental health



### **SUE SALTMARSH**

Sue Saltmarsh, BA(Hons), PhD, is Professor of Early Childhood at the University of Southern Queensland.

Her interdisciplinary research spans the areas of education policy, global childhoods and parent-school engagement. She is currently leading a national research project concerning parents' experiences of engaging with schools during periods of family separation and divorce.

She has published widely on the topic of home-school communication, the place of parent-engagement in teacher education, and the views of parents and school leaders on the relationships and everyday encounters between home and school.