



MEDIA RELEASE

The Australian Secondary Principals' Association (ASPA) has initiated and conducted a highly successful Symposium - *Educators Shaping Public Discourse and Policy Direction* - on March 22 at the National Museum, Canberra.

The purpose of the Symposium was to bring together the community of Australian educational leadership organisations and other key stakeholders to establish a common voice in response to the proposition that it is time for Australia's educational leaders to be more active in shaping public discussion and influencing policy directions and settings.

Andrew Pierpoint, President of the Australian Secondary Principals' Association said, "One of the outstanding strengths of the day was that all sectors, Secondary and Primary, Government, Catholic and Independent were all represented and contributed significantly to the conversation".

Peter Mader, ASPA Vice President commented that "The guest speakers in Professor Alan Reid and Professor Carmen Lawrence provided focussed provocation for the group that stimulated future orientated thinking".

The Symposium grew out of the ASPA Monograph published in the latter half of 2018, authored by Prof. Reid. The Monograph can be found at www.aspa.asn.au

"At the conclusion of the Symposium, Presidents from the Government, Catholic, Independent and Primary sectors signed a Commitment statement, signifying unity in purpose and a way forward", Mr Pierpoint said. The Commitment statement can also be found at www.aspa.asn.au

Both Mr Pierpoint and Mr Mader said that this Symposium, the first in a series of strategy meetings, "was ground breaking and pivotal to the future of education in Australia".

- Ends -

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