

# The Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association: ACPPAConnect

A case study  
for the national  
strategy to address  
the abuse of  
teachers, school  
leaders and other  
school staff.

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The Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association (ACPPA) is the peak body and voice for principals of Catholic primary schools in Australia, with a mission to provide advocacy and action for Catholic school leadership.

Together with Brennan Law Partners, ACPPA have launched ACPPAConnect, a platform dedicated to the health, wellbeing and professional development of Catholic primary principals across Australia.

## Developing ACPPA Connect

ACPPAConnect was established following feedback received from ACPPA's annual benchmark survey of 1200 Catholic primary principals across the country which aims to collect member data around their strategic direction each year, together with the experience gained by Brennan Law Partners in supporting Catholic primary school Principals through a range of legal matters and issues.

The reoccurring feedback received was that principals were experiencing high levels of stress in the workplace and were unsure as to how and where to engage with the necessary supports and resources to assist them in their roles as leaders during times of need.

Through engagement with existing ACPPA Partners as well as the development of new connections with leaders in the wellbeing space, the ACPPA Board and Brennan Law Partners collated a wide range of valuable, free online resources for principals to take control and better their own personal and professional wellbeing.

All content on the ACPPAConnect platform is considered and reviewed by the ACPPA Board and Brennan Law Partners to ensure it is beneficial to principals across the Country.

For ACPPAConnect to be successful, it was essential to include principals in its development and trials. These trials involved seeking to understand the needs of principals in the type of support they require, the functionality and accessibility of the resource platform and the relevancy of the content. Their feedback indicated the information available needed to be accessible, easy to use and contain centralised resources that are tailored to their personal and professional needs.

ACPPAConnect is not about reinventing the wheel but providing the mechanism for principals to easily access the already available support, when and where they need it.



### Key Partners

#### Current key partners of ACPPAConnect:

- Springfox
- Quest for Life
- Superfriend, in partnership with the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund
- Mindspot

## Key areas of focus for ACPPAConnect

The target audience for ACPPAConnect is principals. It has been designed to provide greater support to Catholic primary principals across the country with the aim to reduce principal stress and workload and thereby enhance the vital work of education leaders to perform their role well.

ACPPA Connect is not a learning and training portal and it was not developed to market products. It's designed specifically for principals and providing them with the resources to excellent leadership in their schools. Through ACPPAConnect, principals are empowered to take responsibility for and control of their own health and wellbeing and access what is relevant to them and their school.

#### Available resource areas of ACPPAConnect

- Anxiety and stress
- Mindfulness and yoga
- Connecting with Faith
- Reports and research
- Wellbeing downloads and podcasts
- Articles and news

## Future developments

To have a significant impact on principal wellbeing, ACPPAConnect must remain relevant and up to date with significant research and data. ACPPA is committed to continuous development of ACPPAConnect ensuring that content is reviewed and updated frequently.

ACPPA also look forward to further exploring the potential of ACPPAConnect with views to possibly expand this resource to Catholic secondary principals.