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Breakthroughs in school leadership development in Australia

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Abstract

The quality of leadership and the effectiveness of schools to deliver an appropriate education through quality teaching have been ‘hot’ topics within education and more widely for several decades. This article provides a brief historical overview of developments in research and changing paradigms of Australian school leadership, followed by a discussion of current leadership development emphasis and provision and emerging concepts in the field such as leadership standards, capital formation in education and leadership in small schools. The article concludes by suggesting areas of policy and program development that may require further consideration.

Keywords:

leadership | management | educational change | school improvement | school effectiveness

Notes

1. See http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national_partnership_agreements/default.aspx.

2. Under the Australian Constitution the States and Territories have responsibility for education and training although in effect, education is largely funded by the Commonwealth (federal) government, which collects income tax and the Goods and Services Tax. Whereas in the past the Commonwealth sought to influence education in the States and Territories, under new funding arrangements following the election of the Rudd Labor Government in 2007, the Commonwealth is more uniformly and significantly shaping and intervening in Australian education through such measures as the introduction of national testing, curriculum and teaching standards and various policies and programs around excellence and equity (e.g. see http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/).

3. Australian Council for Educational Research; Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Industrial Relations.

4. See http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/_resources/national_framework_file.pdf; draft standards for principals have subsequently been developed by AITSL (Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, see http://www.aitsl.edu.au/ta/go) and were being piloted at the time of writing.

5. Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales; Independent Schools Victoria; Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia.

6. See for example The Developmental Learning Framework for School Leaders, http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/teachlearn/leader/developmental_learning_framework_20070418.pdf.

7. See Country Education Project Inc at http://cep.org.au/.

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