



Are You A Future Schools Leader?

Mr Doug Thomas¹

¹Claremont College, Randwick, Australia

A future school is only as strong as its leader. The demands placed on future school leaders are overwhelming. For example, schools are regarded as being the most regulated institutions in Australia today, with more pieces of legislation impacting schools than any other contemporary organisation. Research also shows that the role of the Australian Principal, is identified as one of the most stressful occupations in the nation. The average tenure of a principal in Australia is less than 5 years, so how do we equip our leaders to thrive and 'hang in there', for the benefit of their students, staff and school community.

If we want our schools to thrive in the future, and to be world-leaders in innovation, achieving excellence in student outcomes and all aspects of our operation, what are the essential qualities of leadership in the future school setting? We want the best for our students, so what is best for our leaders? As they seek to care for students and staff, how do leaders care for themselves?

This presentation will explore:

- Key characteristics of 'future school' leadership
- Recognise and understand sources of stress and potential burn-out
- provide opportunities for self reflection and personal growth
- provide a personal well-being tool-kit for school leaders
- equip and empower school leaders in their role, and to have an experience at the International Confederation of Principals Convention which will energise, encourage and affirm the significance and importance of their role, both now and moving into the future.