



The Principals Australia John Laing Professional Development Award

Background, Guidelines and Roles

John Laing is a Tasmanian School Principal who was a foundation member of the Australian Principals Association Professional Development Council (now Principals Australia) in 1993. John's passionate belief and energy was the driving force behind the first cross-sectoral professional learning projects for all school leaders in Australia.

John's retirement from the profession prompted a special award to be set up in 2004 in his honour – the John Laing Professional Development Award. This was established to recognise the contribution of school leaders who have significantly contributed to the professional learning of other school leaders.

The Convenors of the eight Principals Australia Branches have refreshed and reinstated the award in a new format. The John Laing Professional Development Award is now a non competitive, peer nominated celebration of school leadership and professional learning. Our main aim is to celebrate leadership learning: for school leaders by school leaders.

The Award process step by step

1. Each Principals Australia Branch set a timeline for nomination and a celebration event date (ie: the Branch decides on an opening and closing date for nominations and an award presentation date)
2. Each Principals association representative on a Principals Australia Branch is invited to nominate **one** (1) member from their state/territory principals association after discussion within that state Association (see overleaf for honorees criteria).
3. The branch member/nominator completes a John Laing Award nomination form.
4. The nominator contacts the honouree and is invited to accept the award. The honoree indicates acceptance by signing and returning the nomination form to the nominator.
5. The nominating Branch member submits the completed form to their Branch Convenor and national Branch Coordinator via email.
6. All valid nominations are accepted in writing by the Branch convenor (via email). **Every nominated school leader becomes a recipient of a John Laing Award. A Branch may have up to 6 awards or more, depending on how many associations attend Branch meetings.** Alternately, not every association HAS to make a nomination every year.
7. The Award honorees are contacted by the Branch Convenor with congratulations and advice of the Award celebration date in their state/territory, event overview, speech guidelines and family member invitations to the ceremony.
8. The honoree receives a glass plaque commemorating their honour at the Award Event, gives a speech focussing on their leadership journey and their influence in enabling professional learning for leadership colleagues. They also write a story of this leadership journey to be compiled and published by Principals Australia in the future.
9. The original nominating Branch member advises their principals association of the Award honoree and may arrange a second presentation to the honoree at an Association Meeting or conference.
10. The Branch Convenor advises state/territory government, Catholic and Independent education bodies of the award's importance and names of the honorees in their state/territory.

The Award Honourees Criteria

1. The nominee must be a currently employed, seconded or retired school leader.
2. The nominee has furthered the professional learning about leadership in Australian schools in relation to one or many of the L5 proposition.

The L5 propositions

Leadership starts from within

Leadership is about influencing others

Leadership develops a rich learning environment

Leadership builds professionalism and management capability

Leadership inspires leadership actions and aspirations in others

3. The nominee is prepared to accept the award and share their leadership story publicly.

The Branch Convenor's role

1. Leads the enthusiasm and commitment to the award process
2. Plans nomination discussion and publicises the award to Branch members to encourage nomination.
3. Decides on the celebration date and format (with their Branch members) and advises the honourees of the arrangements, including providing them with these guidelines.
4. Hosts the event and presents the award plaques at the Branch celebration.
5. Advises state official systems (Govt. Catholic and Independent) of honourees names and Principals Australia support of leadership.

The Nominator's role

1. Is a current Principals Australia Branch member.
2. Initiates discussion with their Association colleagues and decides on their Association nominee.
3. Completes the nomination form and invites the acceptance of the recipient in person and then in writing.
4. Submits the completed nomination form to their Branch Convenor and national Branch Coordinator.
5. Invites Association colleagues to attend the Award event held by the Branch.
6. Advises their state Association President/Executive of the award winner and arranges recognition at their next Association event.

The Honourees

1. Comply with the guidelines listed in the criteria above.
2. Are invited to attend their State John Laing Award ceremony to personally accept the award.
3. Give an acceptance speech focussing on their leadership journey and their influence in enabling professional learning for leadership colleagues.
4. Write the story of their leadership journey to be compiled and published by Principals Australia in the year following their award.
5. Becomes an alumni of the John Laing Award and is connected to Principals Australia in their support and recognition of it's work toward quality leadership learning for Australian educators.

For further information please
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*John wholeheartedly believed in
the important role that APAPDC
had to play and its contribution
towards and improving and
establishing priorities in
addressing principal's
development needs and
improving outcomes for students*