



The Thriving Principal

Communities of Practice/Professional Learning Communities

SASPA and SAPPA are excited to introduce a community of practice, or professional learning community, style program for school principals in 2021.

Members of each professional learning community (PLC) will share their challenges and ideas in managing the various tensions within the contemporary principalship as identified in the Dr Chris Dolan 2020 report '*Paradox in the life and work of School Principals*' and learn more about how principal colleagues are navigating similar terrain.

SASPA and SAPPA have a combined capacity to form and support up to 10 PLCs focused on this professional growth and support model. Each PLC will have five primary / secondary principals in the group, and we are hoping to have each group facilitated by an experienced ex-school principal.

The PLCs will begin the program with a face-to-face conference and workshop on Monday 15 March where the membership of each PLC will be determined. The groups will then meet online five or six times in 2021 and conclude with a sharing expo styled event on Friday 10 September. The asynchronous, virtual meetings between March and September will be for approximately one hour on Zoom or MS Teams, and each group member will be expected to actively contribute to the PLC.

PLC Norms

- Adopt a sense of responsibility in and for the group.
- Attend to others and listen deeply.
- Cooperate in good faith.
- Confront problems respectfully.
- Accept where others are at.
- Suspend judgements.

(adapted from the NSN Protocols)

Qualities of a quality professional learning conversation

1. Clarity of purpose
2. Safety that supports trust and risk taking
3. Equity for all participants
4. Levity (because fun is important too) Tina Blythe 2016