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IN BRIEF

Pressure on our school principals

AUSSIE principals and assistant principals severely lack the support to face the growing pressure of increased workloads, public accountability, aggressive parents and violent students, according to The 2014 Teachers Health Fund Principal Health & Wellbeing Survey Report released yesterday.

The survey, conducted by the Institute for Positive Psychology and Education at Australian Catholic University, included 2621 principals and 1024 assistant principals from primary and secondary schools across urban, suburban, large towns, rural and remote locations from around the country.

Report author ACU Associate Professor Philip Riley said the survey clearly showed that these highly dedicated school leaders were committed to running schools as effectively as possible but the personal cost was increasingly high.

"The high emotional demands these school leaders face, together with a lack of systemic support and training, means we see higher levels of burnout and stress. Worryingly, it is also taking a toll on their greatest support group: their families," Associate Professor Riley said.

The full report can be found at www.principalhealth.org/au/reports.