

## MEDIA RELEASE

August 20 2013

### Bray Park State School receives national award for focus on Aboriginal education

Bray Park State School is one of only five schools across the country to receive national recognition for their work with Aboriginal students.

The school will receive a *Dare to Lead* Award for Excellence in Leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education at an award ceremony next **Tuesday, August 27**.

Principals Australia Institute is presenting the award in recognition of the school's commitment to enhancing Aboriginal student outcomes and working in partnership with families and community.

The school's achievements include:

- Closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students' academic results
- Formation of an Indigenous Advisory committee that works closely with the school
- Strengthening links with elders and community members through Bunyabilla Inc – a community organisation supporting the local Indigenous community – which is located at the school.

"We value every student in our school. We are delighted with the success of our strategies that ensure Aboriginal students achieve the best outcomes that they can," said Maree Mortlock, Principal of Bray Park State School.

"We are providing children with lots of opportunities whether academically at the top end with extension work, or at the other end with extra support in numeracy and literacy."

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A lunchtime ukulele group is just one creative example of the school's efforts to build a positive school community. The group – open to all students – is a practical example of reconciliation in action. Some of the ukuleles have been hand-decorated in Indigenous artwork by the students.

Seventy-eight of the school's 485 students are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The school is growing with the number of Indigenous students tripling since 2008.

"Bray Park State School can be justifiably proud that it is making great strides in achieving positive outcomes with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students," says Peter O'Beirne – *Dare to Lead* National Project Director.

"I congratulate the principal, the school and the community for working together in a strategic way. We know from what we see in schools in every part of our *Dare to Lead* network around the country that schools who work strategically to engage their Aboriginal parents and community and track their outcomes are well on the way to moving ahead."

"*Dare to Lead* and the Principals Australia Institute are very pleased to add Bray Park to an impressive list of high achieving schools."

Other winners include:

#### **High Achievement Awards**

- Orange Public School, NSW
- Singleton High School, NSW

#### **Achievement Awards**

- Bowen State High School, Queensland
- Waterford West State School, Queensland

*Dare to Lead* is an initiative of Principals Australia Institute (PAI). PAI provides programs and services to help build effective, inspirational and sustainable leadership in Australia's 10,000 government, Catholic and independent primary and secondary schools.

**Media event:           Award Ceremony**

**Tuesday August 27, 2 - 3 pm**

Bray Park State School, 5-25 Hopetoun Street, Bray Park QLD

The ceremony will include representatives from the Aboriginal community. The student ukulele group will play.

Peter O'Beirne, Maree Mortlock & others will be available for interview.

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