

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **CSPA welcomes the agreement but asks “where is the parent voice?”**

"Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) welcomes the agreement of State and Territory Education Ministers around developing and supporting higher quality teaching and learning for our children," states Tony O'Byrne, Chair.

"The points agreed by Ministers and outlined by AITSL Chair John Hattie to improve the quality of applicants for teacher education programs and the program themselves have our full support," Mr O'Byrne said.

However, it is emphasized that CSPA is disappointed that there is no reference in the agreement to the important role that parents can play.

Education thought leaders across the world are clear that enhancing parental engagement can improve measurable learning outcomes for children of all ages. A recent survey of Australian teachers demonstrated that **82% of Australian teachers feel challenged** in their relationship with parents.

Mr O'Byrne believes that assisting schools and teachers to better leverage the learning potential of parental engagement should surely be front and centre in any effective teacher education program. He concluded that, "building future teachers' capacity to work with parents is a 'no-brainer'."

*Ends ..... 14 December 2015*

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