

## **Interconnexions Project: Leadership for school mental health promotion**

**A/Professor Louise Rowling, University of Sydney, Australia**

**The Interconnexions Project: A global collaboration of the International Confederation of Principals (ICP) and Intercamhs (International Alliance for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Schools)**

Abstract:

Working together, Intercamhs and the International Confederation of Principals, is providing leadership for schools around the world to enhance understanding of the value and importance of teacher and student mental health to successful learning through adopting policies and programs that address the continuum from mental health promotion to early intervention and prevention of disorders. This paper describes the aims of the project and the underlying framework of distributed leadership.

**Cheryl Vince-Whitman, Education Development Centre, Massachusetts, USA**

### **Interconnexions global survey of school principals**

Abstract

A key approach for the Interconnexions project is developing leadership for mental health at all levels in schools, between schools and with service providers. As a starting point an online survey for school principals was developed and implemented through ICP networks. Participants completed the survey online and submitted to a central database at the Educational Development Centre (EDC). The areas canvassed included: priority content areas for addressing mental health and wellbeing and mental health problems; specific needs of principals; resource formats and training.

**Professor Mark Weist, University of Maryland, USA**

### **Interconnexions Action**

Abstract

Intercamhs has the primary responsibility for the development of Focus Areas and approval of Module content for the Interconnexions project. It is intended that modules will be adaptable for local contexts by drawing on the knowledge and expertise of local Intercamhs and ICP personnel. A central feature of the project for addressing perceived needs of

principals is a web portal. This paper describes the planned actions to be conducted to address the needs of principals through their preferred formats.

**Dr Joanne Cashman, Director IDEA Partnership, Virginia, USA**

**Building and Sustaining Relationships with School Principals following the Survey**

Abstract

An international literature is beginning to elucidate key strategies for school leaders to be effectively engaged in school health and mental health promotion. This paper will describe experiences in developing a National Community of Practice on School Mental Health in the U.S., and how this Community is being used to ensure and build significant involvement of education leaders including school board members, superintendents and principals. Lessons learned from this project, relevant to global engagement of school leaders in the school mental health promotion agenda will be shared.

Chairperson: Michael Murray, Clifford Beers Foundation, England

Discussant: Pauline Dickinson, Massey University, New Zealand