

ANDREW BARR | B Ec (Hons), M Ed Studies

Andrew Barr is CEO of the Melbourne-based Centre for Strategic Education. The Centre focuses on Educational Leadership, Professional Practice, School Improvement, Curriculum and Assessment, and Innovation in Education at state, national and international levels – encompassing systems and schools and across Government and Independent Sectors.

Andrew is a highly experienced educator and education leader. He has been a classroom teacher, Boarding Housemaster, Deputy Principal, before becoming Principal of two AHISA (Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia) Independent Schools, one in Tasmania, the other in Victoria.

He was Tasmanian State Chair of AHISA for a number of years, a board member of AHISA nationally for 10 years and then elected by his peers as National Chair of AHISA for 2011 – 2013. Through those years, he was a passionate advocate for the development of aspiring Principals and other school leaders, and for a strong voice by Independent School Principals in major education issues at the Federal Government level.

He has represented the sector on various advisory committees in the early development of the National Curriculum, as well as in Indigenous education and funding for Independent schools.

In 2009, Andrew was awarded the John Laing Award for Educational Contribution (Professional Development leadership) and then in 2012, received the ACEL Tasmanian Eminent Educator of the Year award.

Andrew was also a Director, representing Australia, New Zealand and East Asia, on the international Round Square association of over 150 schools, helping links those schools around the “IDEALS” of International Understanding, Democracy, Environmental Awareness, Adventure, Leadership and Service.

Andrew began his career as a journalist with The Age newspaper, working in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra, and then more recently has been Practice Lead – Education and Government with the Slade Consulting Group.

He remains a Board member of Samaritan House, a refuge for homeless men in Geelong and its surrounds.