## VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

# professional learning communities in victoria

Principal Pauline Jelleff and Assistant Principal Dean Gray share how they got a PLC off the ground at a primary school in south-eastern Victoria.

#### Mary Jean Gallagher, global education reform expert

Professional Learning Communities is the coming together of the staff in a school, with a specific and key purpose, designed to have a measurable impact on student learning.

#### Bruce Armstrong, Deputy Secretary, Regional Services Group, Department of Education and Training

I love the word ‘learning communities’. Why do I love it? Because, at the very heart of the work, is learning. Everybody learning. Students, teachers, leaders, parents - joined up together around that complex, exciting, dynamic work of helping people learn.

#### Tim Blunt, Principal, Sunshine College

I think all principals in the state understand that if we don’t have great collaboration between teachers, it’s going to be really hard to get the outcomes we want for our students.

#### Helen Papas, Assistant Principal, Harrisfield Primary Schoolsl

Collaboration is part of our culture and I don’t think we could function without it.

#### Simon Jones, Assistant Principal, Dromana Secondary College

It involves both peer and leadership observation of teacher practice and that, in turn, gives rise to ongoing conversations and feedback. It’s a supportive context. It’s been invaluable in helping to build capacity and get everybody doing what we’ve agreed should be doing, in terms of good teaching practice.

#### Students from Grey Street Primary School

*Student 1*: Miss Lenny doesn’t believe in crosses, so she does Os and Os mean an opportunity of learning and I think that’s really good for a teacher.

*Student 2*: My teacher helps me when something’s hard and she doesn’t give the answer away. She just tells us to use our strategies and use a growth mindset.

#### Yvonne Reilly, Leading Teacher, Sunshine College

Teachers are jointly responsible for everything that goes on in the classroom, so the reflections afterwards are really built on what can we do better. Why did that go off task? Or celebrating the great stuff that happens as well and then consolidating on that.

#### Melissa Bull, Leading Teacher, Hawthorn West Primary School

You can’t underestimate the power of teachers going away, trialling new things, researching and coming back and having that discussion on the strategies that had the biggest impact on student learning. Why that worked or why it didn’t work? Learning from each other and having rigorous conversations and collaboration has been extremely powerful.

#### Mary Jean Gallagher, global education reform expert

When educators in schools dig deep together in focused and smarter ways, our kids learn better and accelerate their own learning to the point where their lives are forever changed.

#### Bruce Armstrong, Deputy Secretary, Regional Services Group, Department of Education and Training

The very core of the work is helping teachers teach better. That’s the heart of the work because it’s teachers that have the most profound impact on student outcomes.

#### David Pelosi, Principal, Camberwell South Primary School

Changing practice is sometimes uncomfortable and doing something the way we’ve always done it because we don’t know what we don’t know has been a real challenge for some people. But it’s always been embraced because the way it’s been delivered has seen an improvement in student learning outcomes and changing practice.

#### Aaron Silver, Teacher, Wodonga Primary School

I feel like a mixture of things. I feel excited but, immediately, I find myself thinking about the next thing and I find that exciting. So as soon as they’ve learnt one concept, and especially if it’s earlier than I expected, I automatically think what can I teach them next. I get a bit excited about that.

#### Jane Hendy, Teacher, Wodonga Primary School

The excitement on their faces is the best bit and you can see then that they really own their learning when they can realise that they’ve been successful and they get excited about it and they want to tell everybody.

#### Student

I know when I’m learning because I get a weird tingle in my brain.