

# Teacher Attraction & Retention Forum

Lighthouse founded, Chair and support the Greater Shepparton Teacher Attraction and Retention Forum. Current key participants are from local secondary schools, tertiary education organisations and community:

- John Cortese Principal Notre Dame College
- Barbara O'Brien, Acting Principal GSSC
- Mark Torriero, Principal GV Grammar School
- Elizabeth Capp Head of Campus La Trobe University Shepparton
- Sam Birrell, CEO Committee 4 Greater Shepparton
- Chris Aiton, Principal Shepparton Christian College,
- Dr Jacolyn Weller, Director of Professional Experience La Trobe University, &
- Lisa McKenzie, EO Lighthouse (Chair).

The first meeting was convened by Lighthouse in June 2020 after hearing from Principals of their concerns of a growing teacher shortage in the region. This was the first time all three GS principals had met together on any matter to share issues and concerns and identify shared opportunities. The group documented their growing concerns and together identified some of the reasons for the shortfall and potential solutions. Speakers were identified and invited to meet with the core group including: Elizabeth Capp, Damian Drum, Minister Dan Tehan, Professor Joanna Barbousas, Leonie Krieger, Teach For Australia and Phil Britton, Academic Professional Experience Advisor La Trobe University. Elizabeth has since joined the group, Joanna did as well with Dr Weller since taking her place. Damian & attends as required and advocates federally to address the shortage.

Lighthouse Chairs the meetings, provides administrative support and undertakes a range of actions between the meetings. The working group has quickly grown into a key forum where significant strategic planning is underway that has involved discussions between the Federal Education Minister and the Vice Chancellor of La Trobe University and Dean of Education with local Principals to create a partnership between the region and La Trobe University to create an additional supply of teachers. La Trobe are creating a proposal that will see numerous long term student placements created across the secondary schools. The forum is also investigating use of overseas trained teachers and has included the shortage as part of Greater Shepparton's Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA).



**LighthouseProject**  
GREATER SHEPPARTON

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