



President's Comment 33

22 October 2009

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Dear Colleagues

The Leadership BES - *School Leadership and Student Outcomes: Identifying What Works and Why Best Evidence Synthesis (BES)* will be launched by the Minister of Education next week (on 4 November) at the opening of the University of Auckland's Centre for Educational Leadership. Many of the key findings of the Leadership BES have been in the public domain for some time now and have been used to inform other pieces of work such as the KLP, first time, aspiring and experienced principals' programmes. All schools will receive a hard copy of the Leadership BES next month and further free copies are available on request from orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz. Like the other BESs the Leadership BES will be freely available to all through the BES website <http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/goto/BES>.

The challenge for us all is to reflect on the findings in the BES (it is not an 'easy' read!) and then plan to improve our practice and implement those leadership practices that are proven to impact positively on student outcomes. Senior staff and heads of department would benefit greatly from structured professional development opportunities that also focus on these beneficial leadership practices. I believe that it is very difficult to distribute leadership without first defining and developing leadership - we now have an excellent resource that will greatly assist us in this endeavour.

A DVD to support the Leadership BES is also being produced and should be distributed early next year.

Congratulations must go to the BES writers, Professor Viviane Robinson, Dr Margie Hohepa and Claire Lloyd, and to Dr Adrienne Alton-Lee (the Chief Education Advisor for the Iterative BES Programme) for an outstanding, world class publication that has potential to positively influence school leadership in New Zealand and overseas.

Peter Gall
President