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One in five teachers think about quitting *Job satisfaction, pay and getting that promotion*

About a fifth of teachers (21 per cent) have considered leaving the profession in the past three months according to exclusive new research released today.

The ASG-ACE Teachers Report Card discovered 27 per cent of government¹ teachers have thought about quitting compared to 22 per cent of faith based school teachers and 11 per cent of private school educators.

The report, a joint initiative between ASG and the Australian College of Educators (ACE) surveyed 380 teachers and found while 91 per cent of educators are satisfied or very satisfied in their jobs, this decreases for teachers who have been in the profession for less than two decades (85 per cent).

Opportunities for promotion are welcomed by teachers, with the report revealing 59 per cent of them feel it is important or very important, yet 55 per cent of teachers claim it happens rarely or very rarely. This feeling resonates more so with preschool (80 per cent) and primary school teachers (68 per cent) in comparison to only 51 per cent of secondary school teachers who feel getting promoted rarely ever happens.

More female teachers (60 per cent) also felt job promotions were scant in comparison to 48 per cent of male teachers.

The ASG-ACE Teachers Report Card found 34 per cent of all teachers believe they are paid poorly or very poorly and this increases to 40 per cent for classroom teachers. Only 25 per cent of principals, deputy principals and heads of department felt they were paid poorly.

The report also found primary school teachers (94 per cent) believe they are able to support their students in the best possible way, ahead of preschool teachers (87 per cent) and secondary educators (84 per cent).

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says the report is an insightful snapshot of teachers' beliefs regarding job satisfaction, recognition and opportunities at their school.

"We've heard the opinions of teachers who are at the coal face of the profession, day in, day out.

"Teachers, irrespective of the school type or the subjects they teach play a valuable and inspirational role in the development of our young people. It's vital we listen to their opinions and make smart decisions regarding schools and the resources and opportunities our teachers need," said Mr Velegrinis.

The Australian College of Educators is a professional association that represents teachers across all sectors and systems. CEO Helen Jentz says it is important educators are offered the resources they need to shine.

¹ Government schools – a school that is conducted by or on behalf of the government of a state or territory. Faith based schools – these are sometimes known as systemic schools i.e. managed by a centralised system authority and some are independent schools. Private schools – some private schools are also classified as independent schools i.e. set up and governed on an individual school basis and answerable to a governing board or management committee.

"The survey reveals the challenges teachers, regardless of school type, face on a daily basis.

"It's heartening the vast majority of educators are satisfied and are proud of what they do, but more needs to be done. We all have a role to play to ensure teacher recognition levels are improved and the standing of the teaching profession is more valued by the broader public," said Ms Jentz.

For more information about ASG call 131 ASG (131 274) or visit www.asg.com.au

For more information about ACE call 03 9035 5473 or visit www.austcolled.com.au

Editor's notes

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au

The Australian College of Educators (ACE) provides a collective voice for all Australian educators. It advocates, leads and drives positive change and encourages open, collaborative discussion to enable their broad membership to provide the best outcomes for Australian students across all levels of education.

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