



Australian Principals Federation

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APF MEDIA STATEMENT: Enhanced Bail Supervision Pilot Program

Our members are deeply alarmed by this pilot. There has been no consultation with the education sector, leaving school leaders and staff blindsided by a decision that has significant implications for school safety and operations.

The prospect of placing repeat offenders who are required to wear ankle bracelets into school environments shifts a judicial and law enforcement responsibility onto principals and teachers—professionals who are neither trained nor equipped to manage individuals under court-ordered monitoring.

Schools are designed to be safe, supportive learning environments, not pseudo-detention centres. The presence of individuals with electronic monitoring devices introduces potential risks, including disruptions to school routines, safety concerns for students and staff, and an increased burden on educators to oversee individuals with known behavioural issues.

Furthermore, the lack of clarity around risk assessments, supervision protocols, and accountability measures only heightens these concerns. Without appropriate safeguards and sector input, this initiative compromises the integrity of the education system and the well-being of those within it.

The APF urges the cessation of the pilot program and advocates for the exploration of alternative education settings and programs to ensure that repeat offenders receive the specialised support and rehabilitation services necessary for their development and reintegration into life and society.

Tina King

President – APF VIC Branch

