

26 April, 2012. **Principals play key roles in the administration of their schools, the management of their staff and the shaping of education outcomes of students. Mentorship and support for secondary school principals in Tonga have been identified as vital for ensuring they are able to realise their full leadership potentials for the benefit of their staff and schools.**



The Tonga Secondary Schools Leadership Program (TSSLP), an Australian Government initiative of AusAID's Pacific Leadership Program (PLP), was launched in Nuku'alofa on Thursday, April 26.

Designed to provide targeted leadership training for secondary school principals and their leadership and governance teams, the TSSLP was launched with the opening of a Training Conference for 31 principals from all over the country. The conference will be followed by a mentoring program linking them with local mentors to support them in meeting their leadership challenges.

The principals attending the Training Conference were present at the launch, where an opening address was delivered by Minister for Education, Women's Affairs and Education, Dr. 'Ana Maui Taufe'ulungaki. Accompanying her as key participants in the launch program was Mr. Paul Fonua, Chairperson of the Tongatapu Secondary Schools Principals Association (TSSPA), Mrs. Seu'ula Fonua, Acting Director of the USP Oceania Institute for Education (OIE) and Cameron Bowles, Regional Director of PLP.

Leadership has a direct correlation with a school's ability to meet the learning and development needs of its students and the aspirations of parents and wider society. Enhancing school leadership is therefore an important strategy for addressing the challenges of access to and quality within education provision in Tonga.

