

[SAPPA-TALK](#)

[Leader Wellbeing Thought October 24, 2025 Guiding](#)

[Reply to Group](#)[Reply to Sender](#)

Oct 23, 2025 8:38 PM

[Angela Falkenberg](#)

Howdy good guides,

While attending the International Confederation of Principals meeting in Delhi, I had the privilege of hearing from Shri Justice Jaspal Singh, a retired Indian High Court judge whose reflections on education were thought provoking.

Justice Singh spoke not of academic success or legal milestones, but of *teachers*-and more precisely, of *guidance*. He described how learning for him came alive through a magistrate who guided, persuaded, and motivated him. This teacher didn't instruct through authority but inspired through example. He didn't teach in the traditional sense; he *guided*, showing the positive impact of relational education.

Listening to Justice Singh reminded me of Winston Churchill's wry observation: "*My education was interrupted only by my schooling!*" That quote captures a tension many of us know well, between the structure of schooling and the deeper, lifelong process of learning. Justice Singh, now 89, spoke with the vitality of someone still learning, still curious, still growing. His story reaffirmed that education is not confined to classrooms or curriculum; it can be found in the people who ignite curiosity and nurture the courage to act.

He offered three reflections that stayed with me:

- **Authority with purpose:** We must stand up for what we know to be true. Our knowledge and experiences are not possessions to hold but tools to serve others.
- **Agency over time:** We all have the same 24 hours in a day, and what we choose to do with them defines our influence.
- **Education through connection:** True learning is born of relationships; it is in the guiding, the modelling, and the shared belief in another's potential that transformation occurs.

Justice Singh encouraged teachers to look beyond curriculum and see the potential inherent in every student. He urged us to help them realise not only what they can achieve for themselves but also what they can contribute to others.

That was another reminder of our humanity: we become our best selves through connection with others. As principals and leaders, we are *makers*: watching for potential, nurturing it in teachers and students, and guiding it toward something meaningful.

Justice Singh concluded with these words of wisdom and humility: "*Whatever I have achieved, I go back to those who guided me, not those who taught me. We are all looking for enlightenment to be good parents, companions, friends. We have knowledge about what a person can achieve, but the first step is to see the potential and guide the fire of curiosity.*"

In leadership, as in life, perhaps that is our greatest role: not simply to teach, but to *guide the fire of curiosity* that leads others toward their own enlightenment.

My wish for you is that you are nurtured along your own learning journey.

Angela

P.S. At the Salwan Public School, I was welcomed by a House Captain and a Literary Captain. There were also Empathy, Environmental, and Cultural Captains; valued peer mentoring and guidance roles, reminding us that leadership at every level begins with connection.



Angela Falkenberg

President

Australian Primary Principals Association



m 0401 123 148

e president@appa.asn.au

w www.appa.asn.au