

# Principals lobby on program

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PRIMARY school principals will write to Education Minister Julia Gillard to request greater flexibility in the timing of the \$14.7 billion school building program.

At a meeting yesterday in Canberra, principals representing government and non-government primary schools raised concerns about meeting strict program deadlines where contractors were not available or there was a clash of different projects.

However, Australian Primary Principals Association president Leonie Trimper said many of the initial teething problems of the program had been ironed out.

Ms Trimper said the letter to Ms Gillard, copying all state and territory education ministers, would request further fine-tuning of the program.

"We would not want to see a school having to change what they want to do because of a time line," she said.

All maintenance projects funded under round one of the national school pride program must be completed by December 20, while those under round two have until February 1 next year.

Victorian Principals Association president Gabrielle Leigh said there had been a problem meeting those deadlines at a handful of schools where multiple projects could not be rolled out simultaneously.