



# SLI podcast series discussion guide ep.20

## 3 Part series – Part 1: Voices of teacher leadership

Use the discussion points below to reflect on your own leadership practice or as prompts for discussion with your leadership team. Choose the ones which resonate most in your context.

### Speakers

**Alicia Spinelli:** Teacher, Orara High School  
**Brayden Vickery:** Teacher, Bundarra Central School  
**Joanne Jarvis:** SLI Director and host of the series

### Discussion points

#### For individuals

Alicia and Brayden both spoke about leadership as a way of shaping school culture.

**What specific leadership behaviours and actions do you use to influence the culture of your classroom, team, or school?**

Joanne and Alicia highlighted the importance of principals listening to teacher leaders.

**Can you share a time when your voice was genuinely heard in decision-making, and how that shaped your development and sense of belonging as a leader?**

Brayden described how small-school contexts provided him opportunities to step into leadership early.

**What leadership opportunities have you embraced, either formal or informal, and how have they helped build your confidence and self-efficacy as a leader?**

Recognition was surfaced as both trust in one's abilities and simple gestures of appreciation.

**What forms of recognition motivate you most, and how do you recognise leadership in your colleagues?**

Alicia recounted her experiences of modelling collaboration so that students see teachers working together.

**How do you demonstrate collaboration and shared leadership to your students? What impact might visible collaboration have on both students and the wider school community?**

#### For teams

The podcast described teacher leaders as a “bridge” between principals and classrooms.

**How is that evident in your school, and what actions or opportunities could strengthen this bridge?**

Alicia emphasised the value of feedback from mentors in building her leadership skills.

**What feedback and mentoring structures support leadership development in your school, and how might these be strengthened?**

Research highlights the importance of ‘strengthening teachers’ through voice, recognition, and opportunity.

[education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/school-leadership-institute/research/future-leaders/review](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/school-leadership-institute/research/future-leaders/review)

**As a team, identify ways your school currently supports teachers in these three areas, and what further opportunities exist to enhance them?**

The podcast highlighted the importance of recognising teacher leaders.

**What forms of recognition do you believe most effectively build the efficacy of aspiring leaders, and why?**

Both teachers reflected on the personal and professional fulfilment of leadership.

**As a team, discuss how opportunities for teacher leadership can be made more equitable and accessible for all teachers.**