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Lawrie has a background in teaching, human resource development, lecturing and research. His career spans over 40 years in education. His professional development activities include development, design and implementation of leadership programs for school administrators. Lawrie is an Associate Professor in Educational Leadership, Program Director of Professional Masters courses, and coordinator of the MEd and MEd (Educational Management) programs, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, the University of Melbourne. Lawrie teaches in leadership, human resource management, marketing, school effectiveness and improvement, and learning communities. His research interests are in marketing in education (market orientation and brand management), and successful school leadership. Currently he is a member of the International Successful School Principalship Project (ISSPP), and the International School Leadership Development Network (ILSDN). Both organisations include teams of international researchers who are investigating successful school leadership in a range of contexts in over 18 countries. This research has produced important findings on school leadership in different contexts and created models of successful school leadership. Lawrie is also involved in consultancy work in the Victorian school system including conducting government school reviews and independent school inspections, and involvement in a wide range of professional learning programs. He has published extensively in international and local journals.