

**Thursday 29 October 2015**

## **New South Wales trumps sunshine state in education awards**

For the very first time in more than two decades, New South Wales has edged in front of Queensland, dominating the 2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA).

Fourteen outstanding educators are the recipients of the ASG state and territory teaching awards and are among 60 recipients to be awarded the prestigious honour from 120 finalists announced last month. The ASG NEiTA received more than 1100 nominations from parents, school councils and students from all over Australia.

Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, ASG NEiTA gives parents, grandparents, school boards and councils and committees of management the opportunity to formally thank and recognise outstanding and dedicated teachers, who are passionate about driving a world class education system and encouraging students to reach their full potential.

ASG NEiTA Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis says being recognised and highly esteemed by communities is an incredible achievement and the 14 recipients should be proud of their valued contributions.

"I congratulate all of our state and territory ASG NEiTA recipients in the lead up to World Teachers' Day in Australia this Friday. There truly is widespread support, regard and appreciation for teachers, because receiving a quality education starts with these individuals who encourage and challenge students to stretch themselves beyond what they think is possible.

"From a recent survey we conducted—the ASG Parents Report Card 2015, we know that 89 per cent or nine out of 10 parents believe their children's teachers are very capable. This support for teachers doesn't surprise us and further validates the value of teachers in our society."

The awards are separated into early childhood, primary and secondary categories.

ASG NEiTA chairman, Allen Blewitt says the awards, which are the only community based awards in Australia, also reflect the broader impact inspirational and innovative teaching has on families, community and culture.

"As a professional in the education sector, I understand the importance of supporting teachers and acknowledging the crucial work they do, not just in classrooms, but in our communities, and recognising their contribution through channels such as ASG NEiTA."

Queensland came a close second with 13 ASG NEiTA recipients, followed by 10 in Victoria, eight for Western Australia (8), Tasmania (5), South Australia (4), ACT (4) and two for the Northern Territory.



# Media Release

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In March 2016, ASG NEiTA will announce the national award recipients. Professional development and project grants are available at the national award level, as well as one lucky teacher getting the opportunity to go to Space Camp in the United States.

A full list of the 60 state and territory [ASG NEiTA recipients](#) is available.

View the [finalists' profiles](#) by state and territory and find out what makes them exceptional teachers.

ENDS.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Editors notes:**

*The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 520,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.3 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members.*

*The ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) started in 1994 in Australia and 1996 in New Zealand. Since inception, more than 30,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries.*

*For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au).*

