

# 2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## National Award Recipient



### Carolyn Elliot

Pembroke Primary School, VIC

At Pembroke Primary School, students with a refugee background, predominantly Myanmar Chin, make up close to 50 per cent of the student body. This presents its own set of challenges, such as language and socio-economic barriers, but in return, the school is enriched by the diversity these students bring to the school and the motivation they provide to the entire student body thanks to the high value they place on education and the aspirations they have for themselves, often as a result of having endured hardship.

Carolyn is inspired by great teachers and the difference they can make to students lives. In her work to support teachers, and in turn, learning at her school, she has led the design of a Science and Technology Centre. She also instituted a literacy program run by the school's Prep teacher to prepare children coming to the primary school the following year, and implemented a Year 7 to 8 numeracy program for extension mathematics students.

The school focuses on supporting students with limited English skills through the use of technology, which provides a stimulus for learning, while encouraging speech through action. Auslan is offered as a LOTE language at the school, providing a conduit for communication. The school is also committed to involving parents in the educational experience.

Under Carolyn's leadership, Pembroke Primary School was a winner in the Education and Early Childhood Section of Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence in 2015.

Carolyn's National Award is for Community Engagement.

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