

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

National Award Recipient



Keith Fennell

Airds High School, NSW

A former SAS soldier, Keith quickly established himself as a leader in the Airds High School community, leveraging his personal experiences to engage and inspire students at the disadvantaged school in south-western Sydney. The school has a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and Keith utilises innovative teaching strategies to motivate, with a particular focus on boys considered unreachable by others. Keith's leadership in the school's

Mentoring, mateship and masculinity and Boy's Own program have seen at-risk male students become empowered, self-aware learners who are able to set ambitious, yet achievable, goals for personal growth.

Keith's X-Fit after school sports program has attracted diverse students, from school leaders and high achievers to disengaged students. Another innovation Keith has offered to Airds High School since his arrival is the use of the A Learning and Response Matrix (ALARM) model. Through professional development, including visits to other local schools to train with the originator of the model, Keith has developed skills and knowledge which he is now in the process of transferring to the whole school. His use of ALARM in conjunction with Formative Assessment, has empowered his students to assess their own work and clearly detect areas in need of development.

Keith's National Award is for Early Career Teaching.

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