

# 2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## National Award Recipient



### Tracey Marsden

Yidarra Catholic Primary School, WA

The two kindergarten classes at Yidarra Catholic Primary School were recently integrated to become one class, under Tracey's direction. This successful merger has enabled two classroom teachers to combine their specialist knowledge and provides the children and staff with an opportunity to work collaboratively in a shared, play based, emergent, indoor-outdoor classroom.

Children now have access to a larger environment and work with six qualified members of staff, instead of three educators in each class. To ensure all children feel safe, secure and confident in the new setting, each child belongs to a key group of 10 children.

It is well recognised that social and emotional development during the early years impacts the health, wellbeing and competence of children and Tracey is committed to helping children to develop strengths in these areas. The children in her kindergarten class are invited to learn through an emergent play based curriculum, developed with each child's interests in mind, and with responsiveness to their development and learning.

In Tracey's classroom, educators focus on observing, recording and engaging with children. Staff come together daily to discuss individual children and this information is tracked and informs future programs. Tracey also recognises that parents and families are the child's first and most influential teachers, and she is committed to involving parents in the kindergarten in order to provide a positive, sustained and reciprocal relationship, ensuring optimal development for every child.

Tracey's National Award is for Leadership and Development.

---

NEiTA is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited ABN 21 087 648 879  
Registered Office 23-35 Hanover St Oakleigh Vic Australia 3166

For further information, please contact:  
Nicole Gundi, Public Relations, Australian Scholarships Group  
Phone: 03 9276 7520 Mobile: 0448 167 578 Fax: 03 9276 7798  
Email: [publicrelations@asg.com.au](mailto:publicrelations@asg.com.au) [asg.com.au/neita](http://asg.com.au/neita)

