

**Friday 10 March 2017**

## **Vision for lifelong learning wins national teaching award**

A school principal and science teacher who has implemented a 'visible learning journey' throughout the whole school will receive a national award at the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (ASG NEiTA) today at a ceremony in Melbourne.

Sheree Mader from Saddleworth Primary School is the only South Australian recipient and will join 12 other outstanding educators from across Australia in receiving the top awards.

Selected from more than 1350 nominations in 2016, the 13 national award recipients will be honoured for their inspiring and innovative contribution to teaching. Ms Cleaver will receive an ASG NEiTA Leadership, Development and Innovation award.

Ms Mader was nominated by a parent who says she has been a 'refreshing welcome' to the school since her appointment three years ago and has a strong vision for lifelong learners.

"She makes it very clear that she works on behalf of and with the students and instils a sense of pride in them and treats them and their opinions with respect. She has replaced a sense of apathy and 'we'll get by' attitude in the school with pride and achievement as well as a self-belief in the students' abilities," writes the parent.

Ms Mader also introduced John Hattie's Visible Learning which gives students the opportunities to set their own learning goals and challenges, where in consultation with parents, students can sign-off, comment on and review their goals at the end of each term.

"There is strong evidence to show that students are changing the way they see themselves as learners. They regularly ask for feedback, reflect and share their learning at the conclusion of lessons and utilise reflection journals. The visible learning journey needs to continue to move forward to ensure that we, as teachers, are often reflecting on our practice. Focusing on feedback and ensuring that the feedback is effective and constructive for students."

ASG NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt says Ms Mader's leadership style and initiative has been embraced and warmly received by the community town.

"Ms Mader was also nominated for her great sense of fun and loves to laugh and chat with the students about their lives and school work, both at school and out of hours. While not actually living in the township, she has managed to endear herself to the local community and is always keen to include the community in the school plans. She and her family have joined the local sports club and she is often seen cheering the students on in their netball and football games on the weekend. She participates in school fundraisers, encourages and motivates parents to be involved and is always welcoming to whomever pops their head in her door."



# Media Release

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Parents, grandparents, secondary student councils, school boards, councils, parent associations, committees of management and community organisations throughout Australia nominated these inspirational recipients.

Chief Executive Officer of ASG NEiTA, John Velegrinis says the ASG NEiTA recipients have all been recognised by their local communities for making a genuine difference to education and for supporting the educational aspirations families have for their children.

"I congratulate Ms Mader along with the other ASG NEiTA recipients. These outstanding teachers and educators have earned the respect of their communities through their hard work, building trusting relationships and ensuring their love for education gets passed on to their students, creating a culture of lifelong learning.

Teachers have an enormous responsibility and our ASG NEiTA recipients take on this responsibility with humility, striving to always be accountable for their actions, working beyond what is expected of them and expecting nothing in return. Their joy comes from the challenge of ensuring their students flourish academically and socially, giving students choices and offering holistic solutions. This is why ASG NEiTA has thrived for the last 22 years. The community thanks and applauds you for your contribution to teaching the next generation of young Australians."

The national awards are divided into four categories: leadership and development, innovation, community engagement and introducing, early career teacher. For more information on the 13 national awardees, including profiles go to: <http://www.asg.com.au/neita>

Eleven national award recipients will receive \$5000 professional development grants with one teacher getting the incredible opportunity to go to Space Camp in the U.S. One teacher is also awarded a \$2000 Disability Inclusion Grant.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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**Editor's 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 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 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 34,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries, with more than 1050 teachers receiving about \$940,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments. For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au)*

