

**Wednesday 2 November 2016**

## **Queensland communities back best teachers for national awards**

Nine outstanding teachers who have made an impact in their local communities throughout Queensland have been honoured with ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA).

They are among 60 state and territory recipients to be awarded the prestigious honour selected from almost 1350 community nominations.

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 community recognition is very powerful and the nine ASG NEiTA recipients should be proud of the impact they're making at the grassroots level and beyond.

"Communities are deeply engaged in education matters and in some cases, they can be the richest educational resources, so I congratulate them for really making a difference in their local communities. We say that education is one of the most critical investments that parents, families and communities can make, but we need teachers like our ASG NEiTA recipients to drive this education and really invest in nation building through our young people.

We recently launched the second edition of the ASG Parents Report Card which reveals parents' support for their child's teacher continues to grow, with 91 per cent believing their child's teacher is very capable. This is really encouraging especially when teachers tell us they're bogged down in teaching an overloaded curriculum, whilst managing time constraints and trying to accommodate for the specific needs of each child."

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

ASG NEiTA chairman, Allen Blewitt says the awards also highlight the positive relationships which have been built.

"ASG NEiTA is one of the only channels where the community gets to express their gratitude through nominating an inspirational teacher, educator, principal or centre director. These awards go from strength-to-strength because they celebrate outstanding teachers whose positive influence can last a lifetime."

New South Wales had 15 ASG NEiTA recipients, followed by 11 in Victoria, 10 for Western Australia, five for South Australia (5), Northern Territory (4), Tasmania (3) and three for the Australian Capital Territory.



# Media Release

ASG NEiTA will announce the national award recipients in March 2017. 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.

Queensland			
Teacher	School	Postcode	Category
Melissa Berg	Wynnum General Gordon	4178	Early childhood
Pollyann Webb	Good Start Early Learning Monterey Keys	4212	Early childhood
Julie-Ann Goldman	Sheldon College	4157	Early childhood
James Caldwell	Pimpama State School	4209	Primary
Elizabeth Crocos	Cameron Downs State School	4821	Primary
Elizabeth Bailey	Mount Isa School of the Air	4825	Primary
Damien Symes	Urangan State High School	4655	Secondary
Frances McMullen	Cavendish Road State High School	4121	Secondary
Erica Prosser	Holy Spirit College	4870	Secondary

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

View the [teacher 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 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 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).

