

2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Casey Hawkins

Alyangula Area School
Alyangula, NT

Described as 'energetic, artistic, warm and encouraging', Casey Hawkins is a Year 3/4 teacher at Alyangula Area School in the remote Northern Territory. The school is one of four schools in the Groote Eylandt archipelago.

Casey loves that her students come from 'all over'. She has many local Indigenous Anindilyakwa students and others who have lived in every state and territory due to their parent's work. There's a mine in Alyangula and this means there's a high turnover of families, but Casey embraces it as an opportunity to look for new and creative ways to engage her students.

Teaching such a diverse range of students presents teaching challenges, and Casey meets them head on. She recognises the complexity of planning and delivering her lessons and spends a great deal of time working out how to integrate ICT, interpersonal, and visual and play-based elements. She also factors in those with special needs to ensure they receive the same level of teaching.

Casey says all her students get variations of the same content, but with an equal opportunity 'to achieve the desired outcome'. Her EALD (English as an additional language or dialect) students use Dragon Dictation to help produce stories and she complements this with online audio sources, and says her students are expected to 'learn together and acknowledge the contributions of others'.

'I do think it's very evident upon entering our classroom that we're a community of learners,' she says.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Teacher		Primary	Year 3/4	3.5
Years at this school/centre	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
1.5	Government	Parent	Alyangula	NT 0885

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Kimberley Walker

Rosebery Primary School
Palmerston, NT

As a Visible Learning Impact Coach in Palmerston in the Northern Territory, Kimberley Walker has a leadership role in training the next generation of early childhood educators. Kimberley mentors and supports new graduates and neophyte teachers by working one-on-one to develop their understanding of how children learn.

Kimberley also teaches in a transition class at Rosebery Primary School, where she develops meaningful play-based learning environments. These foster children's overall development and create opportunities for them to make sense of their world.

With children's interests and developmental needs used to inform play environments, Kimberley facilitates engaging and challenging opportunities.

Seeking to promote strong relationships with the families of children in her class, Kimberley makes a concerted effort to ensure parents feel like equal partners in their children's education. Families are kept abreast of weekly learning intentions and their child's learning goals. This allows for meaningful conversations about children's learning to continue outside of the classroom. These relationships give parents and students the confidence to interact with Kimberley on a daily basis. As a result many parents have volunteered their time to assist children with literacy and numeracy skills as part of a differentiated learning program.

Kimberley has also implemented 'Student Led Conferences' instead of traditional parent-teacher interviews. She prepares her students to take the lead when sharing their portfolio of work and individualised learning goals with their families. Families are impressed to see their young child confidently discuss their learning and lead the conference. Feedback from families has indicated that this model was much more meaningful and informative.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Teacher	Visible Learning Impact Coach	Early Childhood	Transition	6
Years at this school/centre	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
3	Government	Parent	Palmerston	NT 0831

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