

# 2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient

### Denise Kennedy

Larapinta Preschool  
Alice Springs, Northern Territory

Despite negative experience of education as a child, Denise became a teacher. Those early experiences motivated her to want to make a difference for other children who feel disconnected, misunderstood and at times invisible at school. Throughout her thirty years of classroom experience she has developed a philosophy of positivity which is founded on the development of relationships and partnerships with children and families to ensure that her students feel accepted, included and understood.

Before children can learn and families become familiar with staff and the program, they need time to develop a sense of belonging to the school community. Through relationships, Denise and her colleagues try to learn as much as they can about the children, the families and their communities. This information is used to make the program relevant to an increasingly diverse and multi-cultural local community.

In the classroom this means that children are taught in ways that acknowledge their cultural backgrounds and build on their prior-to-school experiences, interests and strengths. Children are also provided with the time and space to develop and learn in their own unique ways and at their own pace. Integral to the learning process is the development of a belief that every child is a capable learner. Within this belief children are explicitly taught to encourage and support each other to learn by acting as role models and by viewing learning as a process which can be achieved through practise, perseverance and care for others.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Preschool Teacher		Early Childhood		30
	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
4	Public	Parent	Alice Spring	NT, 0870

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#### Contact details:

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