

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Damien Symes

Urangan State High School
Torquay, Queensland

Chef and hospitality teacher Damien Symes works tirelessly to impart to his students the knowledge he acquired through many years of working in the hospitality and tourism industries. He is committed to preparing his students for apprenticeships and their future careers by providing them with the building blocks to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in hospitality.

His classes draw on industry partnerships (Queensland Seafood Industry, Queensland College Wine Tourism), hands-on work experience, and guest speakers, which provides insight into real world hospitality and an emphasis on developing life skills. Damien has also developed industry-standard assessment tasks with a focus on the practical.

In 2010 Damien initiated a seven day work experience camp with Sirromet Winery, and three of his students have since gone on to apprenticeships with the restaurant, in addition to the many of his former students now working in top restaurants across Queensland and New South Wales.

Damien is also committed to wider school environment, having founded the Urangan State High School student-run radio station, U-FM. He also works with the school's welfare team to run a five day breakfast program for disadvantaged students.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Teacher		Secondary	Hospitality Tourism	8
Years at this school/centre	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
8	Public	Parent	Torquay	QLD, 4655

Contact details:

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