

# 2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient

### Isaac Thomas

Rockingham Senior High School  
Rockingham, Western Australia

Isaac commenced his role at Rockingham Senior High School in 2008 and has gone on to develop an outstanding sporting-focused program at the school. He is program coordinator for the school's Rugby League Program, and was appointed School Sport WA Secondary Rugby League Sport Coordinator, a program many Rockingham Senior High School students have been selected to participate in. For Isaac, Rugby is a means by which students from disadvantaged backgrounds can build their self-esteem, set goals and build resilience.

Isaac's Maori and elite Rugby backgrounds help him interact effectively with the school's 20 per cent Maori population, as he works to motivate them to be enthusiastic learners. He also liaises closely and appropriately with their families, and this support system has seen an increase in the number of out of area enrolment applications from Maori students in the area.

Isaac contributes to the school's annual Multicultural Week celebrations and this year taught students from a variety of backgrounds the traditional Haka dance, building camaraderie and inclusion within in the school community. He has also facilitated an annual Try-athon fundraising event, with fundraising benefits for the local community. His community minded approach to teaching means he also builds strong relationships and networking and coaching opportunities with local primary schools.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Teacher		Secondary	Rugby Program	9
	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
8	Public	School Board Secretary	Rockingham	WA, 6168

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#### Contact details:

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