

# Media Release

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**Tuesday 31 October, 2017**

## **Paying it forward attitude earns Invercargill educator more success for regional award**

One outstanding teacher from Invercargill who has connected with her school community will be honoured with an ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award (ASG NEiTA).

Katie Pennicott from Invercargill Middle School is one of 18 regional recipients to be awarded, selected from almost 200 community nominations throughout New Zealand.

Now in its 21<sup>st</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.

Ms Pennicott initiated and developed a case study into oral language which was the driving force behind her school winning the Prime Minister's Education Award. This has directly resulted in more effective teacher and student speech and interaction and positively impacted on all aspects of teaching, learning and relationships at the school. This contribution to her school has been Katie's way of paying forward the kindness, support and encouragement from a very special teacher who inspired her to enter the teaching profession.

ASG NEiTA Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis says educators like Ms Pennicott recognise that 'it takes a village to raise a child,' which is testament to their dedication and the impact they have on the lives of those they serve in local communities.

"In many respects, teaching is about giving, not only to children and students but to their families and the community networks around them. Some of the ASG NEiTA recipients come from very small towns and do represent the heartbeat of these communities.

"These teachers have an enormous responsibility in shaping and guiding these young people as well as supporting the educational aspirations families have for their children. Their teaching stretches beyond the core curriculum and standardised testing, and they also help children develop the social skills they need to develop into successful adults. Ensuring children have a well-rounded education is something our ASG NEiTA recipients are absolutely passionate about. This passion is welcomed by families as they want teachers to play a greater role in developing their children's life skills, which was one of the key findings in the latest [ASG Parents Report Card](#)."

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



The NEiTA Foundation is proudly supported and administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited ABN 21 087 648 879, a registered member owned organisation. Registered Office 23-35 Hanover St Oakleigh Vic Australia 3166  
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ASG NEiTA chairman, Allen Blewitt says the awards highlight a long history of positive relationships being built between teachers and their communities.

“These teachers are also mentors and the influence they have on young people is remarkable as they learn to appreciate the value of lifelong learning as they navigate their life journeys. So, ASG NEiTA is one of the only channels where the community gets to express their sincere gratitude through nominating an inspirational teacher, educator, principal or centre director.”

Auckland had seven ASG NEiTA recipients, followed by five in Christchurch and one each for Hawke’s Bay, Palmerston North, Rotorua, Timaru and Maungaturoto.

ASG NEiTA will announce the national award recipients in February 2018. The six national recipients will receive professional development grants.

Invercargill			
Teacher	School	Suburb	Category
Katie Pennicott	Invercargill Middle School	9810	Primary

ENDS.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Editors notes:**

*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 (ASG NEiTA) started in 1994 in Australia and 1996 in New Zealand. Since inception, more than 34,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries.*

For more information visit: [www.asg.co.nz](http://www.asg.co.nz)

