



NEW SOUTH WALES



New South Wales Branch

NSW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING &

THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF EDUCATORS

# QUALITY TEACHING AWARDS, 2007

‘Learning From and Recognising Our Best Teachers’

Sponsored by

## THE Daily Telegraph

### REFEREE’S REPORT

<b>CATEGORY</b>				
<i>(Please tick)</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary	<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/> TAFE	<input type="checkbox"/> University

<b>PERSON NOMINATED FOR ACE NSW QUALITY TEACHING AWARD</b>	
TITLE: _____	FIRST NAME(S): _____
SURNAME: _____	
POSITION: _____	
INSTITUTION: _____	

<b>REFEREE</b>	
TITLE: _____	FIRST NAME(S): _____
SURNAME: _____	
INSTITUTION: _____	
POSITION: _____	
ADDRESS: _____	
CITY: _____	STATE: _____ POSTCODE: _____
PHONE (W): _____	FAX (W): _____
EMAIL(W/H): _____	
SIGNED: _____	DATE: _____

**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, 22 June 2007**

## YOUR REFEREE'S REPORT

The prime focus of the *Quality Teaching Awards* is on teaching. Where the person nominated has other responsibilities, such as Head of Department, Director, or Coordinator, suitability for the Award will still be judged predominantly on his or her teaching expertise.

We recognise that it is impossible to 'sum up' in a series of short statements what it means to be an outstanding teacher in any or all teaching contexts. Furthermore, every teacher is an individual – not a clone.

The criteria that follow should not be viewed as some set of independent, discrete components. Obviously, outstanding teachers manifest a whole range of knowledge, skills, and professional values in interdependent, complex, and individual ways, according to the particular contexts within which they teach.

What follows is an attempt to describe a number of interdependent qualities that have been observed in many outstanding teachers. Clearly, too, it should not be expected that every outstanding teacher demonstrates all of these qualities equally impressively, neither teaching, nor life, is like that.

The following criteria are used in arriving at judgments. They are adapted from the descriptors suggested for accomplished teaching proposed in the National Discussion Paper *Standards of Professional Practice for Accomplished Teaching in Australian Classrooms* released under the auspices of the Australian College of Educators, the Australian Association for Research in Education, and the Australian Curriculum Studies Association. These descriptors also align with the NSW Institute of Teachers, *Professional Teaching Standards*.

### CURRICULUM CONTENT

*Accomplished teachers demonstrate their expertise by:*

- having a broad, deep, and critically aware knowledge, understanding of and enthusiasm for the intellectual content, discourses, and values associated with disciplines from which the subjects (or curriculum areas) they teach are derived and as appropriate to the specific contexts within which they teach
- being both transmitters and critical interpreters of the knowledge, understanding, skills, and values associated with their subject areas, recognising that knowledge is often contestable; and by developing programs that fully implement the aims and objectives of the relevant curriculum.

**Please comment on how well the nominee demonstrates understanding of the content of curriculum for which he/she is responsible.**

**Please summarise the level of expertise for this set of criteria as demonstrated by the nominee by circling one of the following numerals**

<u>Outstanding</u>				<u>Average</u>			<u>Low</u>	N/A-Can't Comment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		0

## PEDAGOGY

*Accomplished teachers demonstrate their expertise by:*

- enjoying teaching students and by holding the highest expectations of what each student is capable of achieving: being aware of the individual needs, interests, capacities of their students; and challenging their students accordingly by inspiring, motivating, correcting, and supporting their students, even in the face of temporary or apparent failure
- having a sense of humour and being able to empathise with their students
- displaying adeptness and discernment in the creative use and critical evaluation of information technologies for assisting their own teaching and in advancing the learning of their students
- demonstrating excellence in the practical, pragmatic craft of teaching and in managing a learning environment that is interesting, challenging, purposeful, safe, supportive, positive, and enjoyable: which fosters co-operation and collaboration, independence, responsibility, and creativity
- exercising high communication and interpersonal skills
- taking due account of the educational implications of the community's cultural diversity: in particular, by including within their teaching those indigenous issues and perspectives necessary to help achieve reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians; and by being sensitive and responsive to the educational issues generated by and within Australia's multicultural society within the context of continuing to develop a socially cohesive Australian society.

**Please comment on the quality of the teaching of the nominee and how well he or she engages students in the learning process.**

**Please summarise the level of expertise for this set of criteria as demonstrated by the nominee by circling one of the following numerals**

<u>Outstanding</u>			<u>Average</u>		<u>Low</u>	N/A-Can't	Comment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

## ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING OF STUDENT LEARNING

*Accomplished teachers demonstrate their expertise by:*

- providing regular, accurate feedback to students and monitoring the growth in students' learning: not only to assist in the assessment of students' growth as a basis for reporting each student's achievements against the required learning outcomes regarding what students know, understand, can do, and value as specified by the formal curriculum; but also as a means of judging the effectiveness of their own teaching.

**Please comment on the learning outcomes of the students for which the nominee is responsible and how these are assessed and reported to students.**

**Please summarise the level of expertise for this set of criteria as demonstrated by the nominee by circling one of the following numerals**

<u>Outstanding</u>			<u>Average</u>			<u>Low</u>	N/A-Can't Comment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

## PROFESSIONAL VALUES, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

*Accomplished teachers demonstrate their expertise by:*

- exemplifying the qualities that they seek to inspire in their students: including intellectual curiosity and rigour, tolerance, fairness, common sense, self-confidence, respect for self and others, empathy, compassion, appreciation of diversity, and acknowledgment of cultural differences
- treating all students justly and equitably: recognising and appreciating the range of values held by individuals as well as within families, groups, cultures, and the wider school community; and abiding by all statutory, legal, and ethical obligations incumbent upon them as teachers
- being reflective practitioners who critique the impact of their teaching and professional values upon students, colleagues, and others in the wider learning community: by having a critical awareness of the role played by their own educational, social, cultural, religious, financial and other background experiences; and how these experiences may have helped to shape their own values, their approach to teaching, and their assumptions about education
- being committed to their own professional development: seeking to deepen their knowledge, sharpen their judgment, expand their teaching repertoire, and to adapt their teaching to educationally sound developments arising from authentic research and scholarship
- exercising educational leadership: working collaboratively with their colleagues; and helping to ensure that the essential goals of their own educational institution are met.

**Please comment on the ways in which the nominee exemplifies a positive image of the teaching profession and demonstrates a commitment to professional learning.**

**Please summarise the level of expertise for this set of criteria as demonstrated by the nominee by circling one of the following numerals**

<u>Outstanding</u>			<u>Average</u>			<u>Low</u>	N/A-Can't Comment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0

## **ATTRIBUTES OF ACCOMPLISHED TEACHING**

*The following attributes were among those demonstrated by previous recipients of a Quality Teaching Award.*

1. A high level of knowledge, imagination, passion, energy and belief in and for their field.
2. An overriding commitment to and high aspirations to moving ahead the learning of individual students for whom they are responsible.
3. A rich repertoire of skills, methods and approaches, built up over years of experience, on which they are able to call to determine and provide the right 'mix' for the specific needs of an individual student.
4. A detailed understanding of the context in which they are working; of the specific expectations of the local community; and of the needs of the cohort of students for whom they are responsible.
5. A capacity to respond to the student cohort, individually and collectively, and to the context, through their teaching practice.
6. Refusal to let anything get in the way of their own or their students' learning, and what they perceive as needing to be addressed.
7. A high level of respect and even affection from their school communities, a by-product of their work and professionalism.
8. A great capacity for engagement in professional learning through self-initiated involvement in various combinations of professional development activities, some provided by the employing authority; others sought out by the individual.
9. A great capacity to contribute to the professional learning of others, and a willingness to do so.
10. Moral leadership and professionalism, in that they exemplify high values and qualities and seek to encourage these in others.

**Is there any final comment you would like to make on the person you are nominating with regard to the above attributes?**

**CLOSING DATE FOR REFEREES' REPORTS,  
LODGED WITH THE CHAIR OF THE RELEVANT  
SUB-GROUP, IS FRIDAY 22 JUNE 2007.**

**Early Childhood**

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