



The Australian Council for Educational Leaders

QUEENSLAND

ANNUAL BRANCH AWARDS CEREMONY



Tuesday 21st October 2025

Ormiston College

Brisbane, Queensland

The Australian Council for Educational Leaders

QUEENSLAND

ANNUAL BRANCH AWARDS CEREMONY



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Queensland Branch Executive

Dr Bruce Addison FACELQ President *

Deputy Principal (Academic), Brisbane Girls Grammar School

Lee Catterall MACEL *

Head of Junior School, Deputy Head of College, Ormiston College

Tameika Grist FACELT

Principal, St Benedict's College

Sarah Gunn MACEL

Director of Studies and Pedagogy, St Peters Lutheran College Springfield

Daniel Johnson MACEL

Director, Education Services, Department of Education

Adam Kuss MACEL

Pedagogical Leadership Consultant, University of Queensland

Dr Tania Leach FACELQ

Deputy Head of School, School of Education, University of Southern Queensland

Tom McCormick *

Head of Senior School, Fairholme College

Susan Garson MACEL

Director of Pedagogy, Brisbane Girls Grammar School

Fiona Roush MACEL

Dean of Teaching, Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Branch Support Officer

Sally Condon 2025

* 2025 ACEL Qld Awards Committee Members

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The Australian Council for Educational Leaders

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ACEL QLD Awards 2025

Order of Proceedings

Reception

5.00pm Reception Ormiston College

5.30pm Performances

6.00 pm **Ceremony**

Acknowledgement of Country

Opening remarks:

Bruce Addison FACELQ, ACEL Queensland President

Michael Hornby, Headmaster, Ormiston College

The Miller-Grassie Address:

Stephanie MacMahon

The Miller-Grassie Award for Outstanding Leadership

ACEL Queensland Fellowship

The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award

The Research in Educational Leadership and Management Award

The Frank Crowther Inspiring Educator Award

The Emerging Educational Leadership Award

The Pivotal People Leadership Award

Leadership Commendation Award

Closing remarks

Vote of thanks

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WELCOME



The Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) is a dynamic and collaborative learning community. We are one where educators come together to share ideas and work towards our commitment to improve the quality of learning for all. We are members of a profession that extends to us the opportunity and privilege to make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

The uniqueness of ACEL is our connectedness with all in the education community, who represent the breadth, depth and diversity of all sectors. With a focus on leading and leadership at our core, we contribute to and draw from national and global research, practice and learning opportunities.

This evening, as the Australian Council for Educational Leaders Queensland Branch (ACELQ), we recognise educational leaders who, in the view of their colleagues, have made a significant contribution to the understanding and practices of the teaching profession and educational leadership. Those who have nurtured and developed the lives of students and enriched the profession by learning with colleagues and contributing to their educational leadership.

Please join with us in congratulating our 2025 award recipients. Your actions are those of influence, motivation and enabling others to contribute to the success of our community. Our award recipients are truly representative of the diversity of our profession, with recipients from the state system, Catholic and independent schools, professional associations, university teacher education faculties and supporting organisations.

On behalf of the Queensland Branch Executive, we welcome you to this very special ceremony. We thank all ACEL Fellows and members who join with us tonight, together with special guests and family of our recipients.

Dr Bruce Addison FACELQ
ACEL Qld President

Ormiston College

Ormiston College is an independent, co educational, non denominational Christian school seeking to achieve academic excellence. Ormiston College aims to nurture and encourage enthusiasm for and commitment to the pursuit of lifelong learning. The College is committed to providing holistic, integrated educational programs which develop problem solving, decision making, critical and creative thinking skills to enable students to participate as confident and contributing members of society, capable of meeting the demands of a technologically advanced and rapidly changing world.

A culture of collaboration and trust in the capabilities of our students provide a vast array of leadership opportunities. Students relish the opportunity to make decisions, take on responsibility and have an input into the direction of the College. Student leaders at Ormiston College are brought together by a common goal, and are driven by a shared interest in giving back to the school and the wider community.

Ormiston College is built around its students. We celebrate individuality and provide an education that plays to each child's unique strengths. The development of confidence and self esteem underpins everything we do, and our support and guidance help build the foundations for success balanced with honesty, kindness, faith and courage.

Michael Hornby

Headmaster and CEO, Ormiston College

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Award venues and hosts

2025

Ormiston College
(Headmaster – Michael Hornby)

2024

Ormiston College
(Headmaster – Brett Webster)

2022 - 2023

Wavell State High School
(Executive Principal – Elizabeth Foster
MACEL)

2019 - 2021

St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School
(Principal – Toni Riordan FACELQ)

2017 - 2018

All Hallows' School
(Principal – Catherine O'Kane FACELQ)

2015 - 2016

Hillbrook Anglican School
(Principal - Geoff Newton FACELQ)

2013 - 2014

St Peters Lutheran College
(Head of College - Adrian Wiles)

2009 - 2012

The Queensland Academies – Science,
Mathematics & Technology Campus
(Principal - Kathryn Kayrooz FACELQ)

The Miller-Grassie Award for Outstanding Leadership in Education



Dr Stephanie MacMahon

Senior Lecturer, School of Education; Program Director, UQ Learning Lab, The University of Queensland

The Miller-Grassie Award and President's Citation acknowledges and perpetuates the memory of the life and work of educational researchers and administrators, Dr Laurie Miller and Associate Professor McCrae Grassie. Nominees are outstanding educational leaders, or a team, whose achievements and influence on policy and/or practice reflect the spirit of the work of the pioneering educational leaders. The recipient is widely respected in the education community and has contributed significant ideas and practice to educational leadership in Queensland.

A Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Queensland, Dr MacMahon is Program Coordinator for the Science of Learning Field of Study, and Program Director of the UQ Learning Lab, a group of multi disciplinary researchers, educators, and industry partners who collaborate to transform learning, teaching, and training through the science of learning.

Drawing from over 20 years' experience as a P-12 educator and school leader, her work focuses on human connection and learning, and knowledge mobilisation—the translation of research into practice.

The UQ Learning Lab's Partner Schools Program has positively impacted the work of hundreds of school leaders and teachers across Australia through fostering collaboration, teachers as researchers, and bridging the research-practice gap.

Dr MacMahon has been invited to join the UNESCO Science of Learning Alliance; presented widely for educational conferences and developed strong connections and collaborations with researchers in Switzerland, USA, Japan, France, New Zealand, and Finland.

Dr MacMahon is a leader who displays great integrity and is well respected in her profession. She is very deserving of this prestigious award.

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ACEL QLD Fellowship



**Meredith
O'Connor**

Deputy Principal,
Queensland Hospital
Education Programs,
Queensland Children's
Hospital School

ACELQ presents Fellowships to educational leaders who, over time, have made outstanding contributions to educational leadership at the state and/or national level. Nominated by ACELQ colleagues, nominees must be members of ACEL who actively support ACELQ, the teaching profession and educational leadership.

Meredith O'Connor has made a significant contribution to educational leadership and to ACEL Qld. Over many years, she has positively impacted the learning outcomes of Queensland's hospitalised students, and the effectiveness of educators working in this context. An ACEL New Voice Scholar, Meredith has actively supported ACEL Qld initiatives, is a member of the ACEL national editorial board and contributor to ACEL publications. Her commitment to her students, the profession, and to ACEL makes her a most worthy Fellow of ACEL Qld.

The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award



David Cashman

Senior Leader, School
Performance – Cluster
2, Brisbane Catholic
Education

Recognises extraordinary educational leadership resulting in enhanced student learning experiences and student achievement. Nominees may be educators or a group of educators working in classrooms, faculties, schools, tertiary institutions, school boards, systems or consultancies. Nominees lead the implementation of educational initiatives and/or influence educational policy beyond their own school/workplace.

David is a dedicated educational leader with over 40 years of experience as a teacher, principal, and area supervisor. Passionate about student centred leadership, he has transformed schools, mentored emerging leaders, and fostered thriving learning communities. A lifelong learner, David holds a Master of Education and continues to champion excellence in education. His unwavering commitment to student success and leadership development has left a lasting impact on countless students, teachers, and school communities.

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The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award



Philippa Douglas

**Director of Student Wellbeing Programs,
Brisbane Grammar School**

Philippa is the Director of Student Wellbeing Curriculum at Brisbane Grammar School and leads an innovative and comprehensive approach to student wellbeing and character development, emphasising the importance of these goals alongside the academic goals of a well rounded education.

Philippa designs weekly student wellbeing lessons for students in Years 5 to 12 and has used a spiral approach to develop a comprehensive but active and immersive curriculum that builds relationships between students and their teachers. She also developed and now oversees a far reaching public purpose program through which students volunteer their time to a wide range of community groups. Student feedback on their involvement in each of these programs is overwhelmingly positive in how it helps them to understand themselves and build relationships with peers and community. Recently, Philippa completed a research project with the International Boys' Schools Coalition exploring healthy masculinity.

The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award



Christine Dowd

**Principal Education
Officer, Humanities
and Social Sciences,
Queensland Curriculum
and Assessment
Authority**

Christine commenced her career in the finance industry. She has taught Economics in both Western Australia and Queensland. She has been Principal Education Officer employed by the QCAA since 2015. In this role she has been responsible for the stewardship of much curriculum change within Economics teaching in Queensland. Her work in the quality assurance space has been exemplary, inspiring much confidence in her colleagues.

Christine is currently the President of the Queensland Economics Teachers Association, a role she has executed with much skill and panache. Her knowledge, leadership and good cheer have helped to build confidence and a broad sense of collegiality within Queensland's Economics teaching community. In addition to this, Christine teaches pre service Business and Economics to pre service teachers at Griffith University.

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The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award



Nicole Gregory

Principal,
The Lakes College

Nicole Gregory is The Lakes College's fourth Principal, having joined the College in 2021. As the Principal, Nicole is committed to continuing The Lakes College's journey of growth and delivering dynamic and rich programs designed to enliven creativity and curiosity while empowering learners to face challenge, build resilience and grow in integrity as they engage in a global world now and into the future. Nicole believes that to know who we are as an organisation is reliant on knowing the sum of all our parts and the strength and possibilities they bring. Each individual, no matter how young or old, irrespective of gender or faith, has experiences, gifts and talents to share with the community.

The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award



Karen Madden

Deputy Principal, St
Paul's School

Karen has 20 years of experience in leading across Uniting, Catholic and Anglican Independent P-12 schools, in roles including Head of Junior School, Dean of Research & Engagement, Director of Teaching & Learning, and currently as Deputy Principal. Karen is an enthusiastic scholar, completing a Master of Educational Leadership at Griffith University and a PhD in Feminist Leadership at the University of Queensland. Karen's contribution to the community of education leaders is evidenced by the establishment of an international writing group for higher degree students and academics seeking to present academic work that moves practitioners toward improved practice. With Professor Elizabeth Mackinlay, Karen co edited *Departing Radically in Academic Writing: Alternative Approaches to Writing and Methods in Qualitative Research*, a book for researchers in education, the social sciences and humanities who are interested to advance critical thinking. Her work inspires education leaders to embrace evocative storytelling for transformational practice.

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The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award



Leanne Rolph

Director, Program
Delivery Branch,
Queensland Curriculum
and Assessment
Authority

Leanne's distinguished career in education is marked by an unwavering commitment to the teaching profession and educational administration. Holding significant leadership roles at the QCAA and currently as a Director, Leanne's leadership of policy, practice and people has had far reaching impact across schools throughout Queensland. Leanne's expertise in quality assurance has involved evaluation and continuous improvement processes, aimed at providing teachers with the tools and resources they need to succeed. In her current role, she is focused on recruitment and retention projects for the 10,000 teachers who work as assessors and markers, ensuring that the QCAA has a robust and capable workforce and that teachers are supported in and attracted to these roles.

Leanne is QCAA's representative on the Queensland College of Teachers Professional Standards Committee, Industry Representative for Program Advisory Committee (PAC) for Griffith College, and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award



Kim Wickham

Principal,
Loreto College

Kim Wickham is the Principal of Loreto College Coorparoo (2018–). In 2024, she was a national excellence awardee for Principal of the Year (non government). An expert in girls' education, Kim has a comprehensive background in curriculum and leading academic performance. The outstanding improvement in Year 12 exit results since her arrival is coupled with her passionate support for evidence based practice and supporting Loreto staff as leading practitioners in their fields. Her success mirrors that at St Aidan's as Dean of Studies and her subsequent QCT award for Excellent Leadership in Teaching and Learning. Loreto was recognised nationally for its Best Remote Learning Program through *The Educator Awards*, in addition to its Social Justice Program, also recognised by ACU as an exemplar of best practice. Under Kim's leadership, she has supported incremental improvement in cultural and sporting programs and led significant improvement in infrastructure and facilities.

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Research in Educational Leadership and Management Award



Professor Robin Shields

Head of School,
School of Education,
The University of
Queensland

ACELQ promotes the principles and practices of good educational leadership through partnerships with universities and tertiary institutions. Postgraduate students are nominated by their universities for exceptional academic achievement in advanced studies in educational leadership.

Professor Robin Shields leads the University of Queensland's School of Education with impact spanning local to global contexts. His innovative data analytics examining international education networks have been adopted across five continents, influencing UNESCO and NGO policies. Having secured over \$4.8 million in grants, his research on international student migration, higher education's environmental impact, educational outcomes in South Asia, and international aid networks has shaped worldwide educational practice. At UQ, Professor Shields has implemented staff development programs aligned with Australian Professional Standards, fostering research excellence and pedagogical innovation. His award winning commitment to technological integration has been shared through mentorship programs developing educational leaders at all career stages. Most significantly, he has pioneered an approach to Indigenous leadership creating genuine partnerships with First Nations communities. By establishing collaborative spaces where Indigenous knowledge holders reshape curriculum alongside scholars, he has developed a model of respectful engagement that transforms institutions while honouring traditional knowledge systems.

The Frank Crowther Inspiring Educator Award



**Joanne
Waller-Brown**

Ormiston College

This award honours educators whose teaching skills, relationships with students and attitude towards their work have inspired young people to enter the profession of teaching. The nominee's pride in and commitment to the teaching profession and educational leadership have influenced others to become teachers and educational leaders.

Joanne is an exceptional educator who has dedicated 27 years to teaching at Ormiston College. Renowned for her high standards, Jo ensures her students receive a top tier education through tailored, research based teaching practices. As both a Classroom Teacher and Team Leader, she continually refines her methods to enhance student outcomes. Her dedication has led to outstanding academic results, including her Year 3 students ranking 5th in Queensland for NAPLAN in 2024. Her commitment extends beyond the classroom through her Team Leader role and through her contribution to the Junior School netball program. Her enthusiasm, care, and tireless efforts have made a lasting impact on the school community.

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The Emerging Educational Leadership Award



Harrison Ahrens

Head of House,
The Lakes College

Provides educators in the early stages of their formal leadership career with the opportunity to undertake professional learning in educational leadership. The award recipient has the opportunity to participate in a fully funded ACEL professional learning event to further their educational leadership.

Harrison is the Head of House at The Lakes College, working in the Humanities team. Harry has been actively involved in various leadership roles and initiatives within the school. Harry has participated in conferences and workshops, such as the one led by Tim McDonald on classroom management and culture. Harry's contributions to the school community include collaborating on projects and sharing insights at staff meetings. An intrepid traveller, teacher of Geography and Titans enthusiast, Harry is not only a gift to our community, but he is also a gift to education and a future leader fuelled by authenticity and care.

The Emerging Educational Leadership Award



Jeffrey Lewis

Assistant Head of English,
Brisbane Grammar School

Jeffrey Lewis started his career as an English and Drama teacher at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School before taking up a position at Brisbane Grammar School in 2016. Since then, he has contributed significantly as a classroom teacher, playwright and director, lead learner, and academic middle leader. In his leadership roles within the English Department, he has led teams through systemic change, curriculum renewal and pedagogical inquiries. Beyond the school, he has held significant roles across seven years on the management committee of the English Teachers Association of Queensland. He has also served in assessor roles for the QCAA, including as a Chief Marker for the External Assessment in English. He is a passionate advocate for student voice and agency in learning, and an inspiring leader within our professional community.

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The Emerging Educational Leadership Award



Tran Mirciov

**Lead Teacher – Primary,
John Paul College**

Tran is a Nationally Certified Lead Teacher at John Paul College, with over a decade of experience in promoting engaging and safe learning environments. A recipient of the 2024 Karen Spiller Fellowship, Tran conducted research within Australia and Singapore to investigate structured mentorship programs and their role in supporting early career teacher retention. This study has informed her school's approach to mentoring, bridging global best practices with local implementation. She leads the Early Career Teacher (ECT) Program and organises networking events across government, Catholic and independent sectors, fostering collaboration and professional growth. Tran has been featured in national media campaigns, including the Federal Be That Teacher initiative, and is contributing to AITSL's Migrant Teacher Campaign, helping develop resources to support migrant teachers in Australia. As a member of the AITSL Highly Accomplished Lead Teacher Network, she continues to advocate for high quality mentoring and evidence based educational practices.

The Emerging Educational Leadership Award



Luke Tree

**Deputy Principal
(Learning & Innovation),
St Ursula's College**

Luke is a dynamic and multifaceted educational leader with nearly thirteen years of experience, blending academic excellence with real world expertise. As the current Deputy Principal of Learning and Innovation at St Ursula's College, Luke has spearheaded transformative initiatives, including the implementation of the College's intranet, development of comprehensive data analytics platforms, and the creation of an offline Large Language Model for policy management, leading to a partnership with Microsoft. His professional journey includes roles as an e Learning Coordinator, Head of Department, classroom teacher across multiple disciplines, and Emergency Response Advisor, complemented by service as an Auxiliary Firefighter. This diverse background has equipped Luke with exceptional skills in crisis management, technological innovation, and educational leadership. Holding multiple qualifications, including a dual Bachelor's Degree in Education and Business, various Diplomas, and numerous emergency services certifications, Luke is committed to advancing educational excellence through innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and organisational leadership.

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The Emerging Educational Leadership Award



Samantha Smorfitt

Head of School,
Indie School Townsville

Samantha Smorfitt was appointed as Head of School at Indie School Townsville in March 2023. She has responsibility for all facets of campus leadership. Prior to this she worked as a middle leader at Cowboys House, a residential facility for Indigenous students attending boarding schools in Townsville. In this role she managed a team of teachers providing learning support to young people in a range of schools. Samantha Smorfitt has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in educational leadership through the execution of her role as Head of School at Indie School Townsville. She has been responsible for creating a safe and rigorous learning environment for young people who have previously been disengaged from education. In the two years of her tenure, she has grown the school from 25 to 150 students, reaching the optimal enrolment number for the Indie School model.

The Pivotal People Leadership Award



Megan Dunstan

Lead Teacher, Sunshine
Coast Grammar School

Recognises an influential middle leader—or team of middle leaders—who have been pivotal in generating enhanced learning and achievement for students from their direct and positive influence on teachers' practice. The pivotal leader leads school improvement in partnership with the school leadership team.

Megan has been a passionate educator for close to twenty years. She leads schools from within as a mentor for staff, illustrating a love of teaching and advocacy for teachers. In this time, she has acted as a Head of Year, Head of English, Lead Teacher, House Coordinator, Debating Coordinator and leader of regional and state debating competitions. Meg is a leader in the English/Humanities teacher community, assisting schools across sectors through her servant leadership.

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The Pivotal People Leadership Award



Jane, a dedicated early years classroom teacher, was selected to be the Coordinator of the Reading Project, Prep-Year 2 at St Paul's School. She is an experienced educator with 20 years teaching in early years classrooms. She is a classroom teacher and has also contributed to the establishment of the Pre Prep Learning Centre within a Pre Prep-Year 12 school. Jane has demonstrated outstanding educational leadership through her strategic initiative in developing and implementing a comprehensive Scope and Sequence for Reading and Viewing. This role involved research, development, and implementation of a comprehensive reading scope and sequence for Prep-Year 2 at St Paul's School. Jane supported teachers in adopting best practice reading instructional approaches, ensuring the use of effective, evidence based strategies to enhance student learning.

Jane Fogg

Teacher; Coordinator of
the Reading Project
(Prep-Year 2),
St Paul's School

The Pivotal People Leadership Award



Elliot McGarry

Curriculum Leader –
Health and Physical
Education, Mt St Michael's
College

Elliot enjoys attending ACEL events and is a thoughtful participant in group discussions. He is developing his middle leadership skills with responsibilities as a manager and leader of pedagogy with a team of HPE staff. He is open minded, accepts and learns from feedback and is an inclusive and supportive middle leader. I highly respect all that Elliot has done to contribute to leadership in my current school where we worked together, and now in his new school context. He is building team capacity and looking for opportunities to enhance teaching and learning in his school.

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The Pivotal People Leadership Award

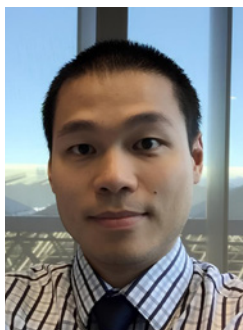


Kate Samios

**Head of Department;
Humanities Teacher,
Wavell State High School**

In 2023, Kate Samios served as relieving Head of Humanities and was appointed Head of Senior Schooling in 2024. Kate now leads Year 10 pathways and external VET, driving a student centred approach to senior learning. Her leadership has been pivotal in reshaping Wavell's senior schooling vision to align with diverse pathways and future ready skills.

Educational Leadership Commendation Award



Michael Ha

**Deputy Principal,
Toogoolawa School**

This group of Principals and Regional Leaders have paved the way and shown true leadership on how to collaboratively work together for the good of their communities and school. There is no competition for school placements or withholding funds to support individual families. With changes to Principalships, this work is steadfast that it's continued and stayed strong through these changes. At these schools, the amounts of welfare and wellbeing programs and collaborations should be commended.

Michael Ha is a nationally recognised education leader with over a decade of experience across K-12 schools. Currently Deputy Principal at Toogoolawa School, he led development of the Growth Framework, a whole school model balancing wellbeing and academic engagement for disengaged learners. Michael is Founder of the Institute of Deeper Learning, former Founding Principal of Element College, and Chair of the Board at Darlingia School, where he supported its re establishment following 2024 deregistration. He leads Fearless Futures leadership summits, supporting wellbeing and leadership development for primary and secondary girls, with over 20 summits delivered in 2024. His work bridges wellbeing, leadership and curriculum transformation. Michael is known for building inclusive, values based learning communities and driving innovation in education.

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Educational Leadership Commendation Award



Fiona Stone is a dedicated STEM educator and mentor for First Nations students. Pursuing a Master's in Research in Biology, she combines academic expertise with a passion for inclusive education. She leads weekly tutorials supporting Indigenous students and has been instrumental in organising the CSIRO Indigenous Women's STEM Academy at The Glennie School. Fiona's leadership fosters a love for STEM, integrating biological research with Indigenous knowledge to empower students in exploring science and future careers.

Fiona Stone

Science Teacher,
The Glennie School

Educational Leadership Commendation Award



Ipswich Small Schools Cluster

Anthony Knobloch, Director, Regional Engagement Services,
Strategic Engagement, Queensland Department of Education

Robert Van den Heuvel, School Supervisor, Metropolitan South
Region, Queensland Department of Education

James Howden, Principal, Ipswich East State School

Tyrone Bruce, Principal, Robertson State School

Perry Jones, Principal, Tivoli State School

Tracy Freeman, Principal, Ipswich North State School

Kylie Wells, Principal, Bellbird Park State School

Deidre Anderson, Principal, Churchill State School

This commendation acknowledges the initiative of educational leaders who have worked positively and collaboratively. Recipients build expertise amongst the teaching profession and in educational organisations. By developing a strong collegial approach and leading their respective organisations for learning, their work has enhanced the professional capacity amongst colleagues and other educators.

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Educational Leadership Commendation Award



Metropolitan South Regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Team

Vanessa Butler, Principal Project Officer

Chris Day, Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Team

Annette Fatnowna, Principal Project Officer, Partnerships & Programs

Denise Gibson, Regional Educational Counsellor

Kylie Heron, Senior Project Officer

David Swanson, Regional Community Education Counsellor

Sharolyn Johnson, Principal Advisor, Indigenous English as an Additional Language/Dialect

Kimberley Kovacevic, Principal Project Officer, Partnerships & Programs

Fallon Verma, Regional Community Partnerships Officer

Rosemary Ward, Regional Educational Counsellor

The Metropolitan South Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team exemplifies outstanding leadership through their deep cultural knowledge, strong community connections, and unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Their work is both visionary and grounded—championing culturally safe, inclusive, and high impact practices that are transforming educational experiences in a culturally responsive way across the region.

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National Awards

The following Queenslanders were honoured for their significant contribution to the improvement of student and organisational outcomes.

Gold Medal Awards

1987	Phillip Cullen FACEL	2016	Jim Watterston FACEL
1989	Jarvis Finger FACEL	2021	Patrea Walton FACEL
1997	Frank Crowther FACEL	2022	Karen Spiller AOM CF
2003	USQ School Revitalisation Project Team		

Hedley Beare Award for Educational Writing

2005	Jarvis Finger FACEL	2013	Neil Dempster FACEL
2006	Keith Tronc FACEL	2017	Ken Avenell FACEL
2011	Frank Crowther FACEL		

Nganakarrawa Award

1993	Neville Fry	2009	Neil Cranston FACEL	2013	Norm Hunter FACEL
1994	Jarvis Finger FACEL	2011	Neil Dempster FACEL	2014	Ken Avenell FACEL
2003	Keith Money FACEL	2012	Dorothy Andrews FACEL	2019	Karen Spiller FACEL

Keith Tronc Award for Outstanding Teacher Leadership

2010	Sarah Long	2018	Andrew Devoy	2019	Mia Pinnington
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Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service

1999	Keith Money FACEL	2014	Helen Starr FACEL
2010	Marian Lewis	2020	Deb Kember FACEL
	Dorothy Andrews FACEL	2022	Dorothy Andrews FACEL

Leadership Awards

2019	Phillip Moulds Andrew Pierpoint	2022	Iyla Davies OAM Townsville Catholic Education: Tammi Webber Krista O'Connor Janelle Knack	2023	Dr Suraiya Abdul Hameed Jacinda Euler Welsh
2020	Marnee Shay Sharon Collins				
2021	Michael Newman				

Scholarships

The 'New Indigenous Voice' in School Leadership Scholarship

2015	Trish Noy
2018	Madeline Pugh
2019	Karis Hill-Milne
2020	Tammy Baart
2023	Shanice Enoch

The 'New Voice' in Educational Leadership Research Scholarship

2015	Karen Trimmer
2016	Amanda Heffernan
2017	Julie Arnold
2018	Belinda Holmes
2019	Selena Fisk
2020	Louise Wilkinson
2022	Tanya Appleby
2023	Dr Tania Leach Dr Judi Newman

The 'New Voice' in School Leadership Scholarship

2015	Samantha Donovan
2016	Alexander Mason, Jacques du Toit
2017	Tamara Sullivan
2018	Ruth Smith
2019	John O'Sullivan-Williams
2020	Amy Byrnes, Meredith O'Connor
2022	Jessica Chesterfield

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The Excellence in Educational Leadership Awards

2010	Norman Hunter FACEL	2019	Lee Catterall	2022	Candi Dempster
2011	Dr Gabrielle Matters		Deborah Dunstone		Aunty Denise Proud
2012	Ken Avenell FACEL		Peter Kelly		Jennie Robinson
2013	Maryanne Walsh FACELQ		Jim Midgley FACELQ		Rachel Scott
2014	Helen Starr FACEL		Dennis Mulherin FACEL		Kirby Short
2015	Mark Creedon FACEL		Dr Lee-Anne Perry FACEL		Dr Liam Smith
	John Ryan FACEL		Karen Spiller FACEL	2023	Sherril Butterworth
2016	Pam Carden	2020	Dr Cameron Brooks		Paul Clegg
	Tamara Sullivan		Michael Newman FACELQ		Debra Evans
	Patrea Walton		Associate Professor Grace Sarra		Christopher Lassig
2017	Tania Leach		Dr Marnee Shay		Sharon Schimming
	Leanne Nixon FACELQ	2021	Sharon Collins,	2024	David Bliss
2018	Ros Curtis FACELQ		Kort Goodman,		Anthony Micallef
	Dr Cathy Day FACELQ		Bronwyn Johnstone,		James Leach
	Geoff McLay		Kay Kirkman		Majda Benzenati
	Anne McKenny				Professor Peter Taylor
	Geoff Newton FACELQ				
	Dr Judy Smeed FACEL				

ACEL QLD Fellowships

1982	Charles Cullen*		Justin Hughes	1999	Ken Avenell*
	Jarvis Finger*		Frank Crowther*		Murray Evans
	Maxwell Howell	1990	Ronald Daniels		Ross Zellow
	Keith Tronc*		Douglas Olgivie*	2000	Debbie Best
1983	William Hurd*		Larry Smith		Steven Brown*
	Norman Hughes*		Noel Stephenson		Anthony Chittenden
1984	Evelyn Jansen*	1991	Murray Bladwell	2001	Neil Cranston*
	Laurence Miller*		Gordon Crosswell		Carolyn Hauff
1985	Merline Muldoon*		Brendan Mcmanus		Ian McKay*
1986	Colin Crain		Anthony Watt*	2002	Lee Callum*
	Joan Farnham	1992	David Ballin		Daryl Hanly*
	Jack Guy		Geoffrey Greene		Tom Robertson
	Carolyn Harrod*		David Manttan*	2003	Dorothy Andrews*
	Robert Haslam		Russell Welsh		Lyn Bishop
	Joseph Mccorley*	1993	Ian Golding		Simon Boss-Walker*
1987	John Cooney		Keith Money*		Robert Rasmussen*
	Neil Flanagan		Michael Myerson		Ian Ferguson
	Peter Freney		Colin Sutcliffe*	2006	Norman Hunter*
	Neville Fry*	1994	Ian Brooks		Kerri Jones
	Helen Lucas		Anthony Constance		Leanne Nixon
1988	Jenny Haddrell	1995	Narottam Bhindi	2008	Liz Jarvis
	Ronald Holmes		June Fox		John Lockhart
	Mary Mcdonald	1996	Isabelle Limerick*		Allan Todd
	John Shelley		Angus Lucas*		Suzanne Bain
	Robin Sullivan*		Lester Mason		Bronwyn Braithwaite
1989	Graham Pollitt		Diane Nailon		Steven Case
	Laurence Topping	1997	Raymond Barrett	2009	Jennifer Fisher
	Ian Druery	1998	Clarence Burke*		Helen Starr*
	Jasper Glover		Cecil Munns		Rob McAlpine

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ACEL QLD Fellowships

2010	Michael Byrne	2014	Ray Bloxham*	2020	Elizabeth Benson
	John Clark		Joan Conway*		Helen Jamieson
	Stuart Maish		Mark Dawson		Dale Morrow
	Julie Grantham		Lisa Ehrich*		Holly O'Sullivan Williams
	Alan Campbell		Wade Haynes	2021	Donna Stahlhut
2011	Peter Chapman	2015	Deborah Kember*		Alexander Mason
	Stephen Loggie		Corrine Mcmillan		James Midgley
	Dennis Mulherin*		Regan Neuman		Toni Riordan
	Lee-Anne Perry*		Geoff Newton*		Louise Vella Cox
	Jason Sharland	2016	Francine Barker	2022	Peter Grootenboer
2012	Sally-Anne Stephenson		Pam Betts*		Elizabeth Foster
	Jan Alen		Michael Fay		John O'Sullivan Williams
	Brian Grey*		Margaret Hendriks	Year TBC	Robyn Bell*
	Glen Finger		David Robertson		Paul Bland
2013	Leesa Jeffcoat	2017	Brett Webster		Paul Campbell
	Bob Lingard*		Lindy Abawi		Robyn Collins
	John Ryan*		Mark Campling*		Mark Creedon*
	Brett Shackleton*		Catherine Day		Neil Dempster*
	Karen Spiller*	2018	Miles Ford		Kenneth Gilbert*
2014	Margaret Ferguson		Kathryn Kayrooz	2023	Rudy Goosem
	Karen Fox		Gary O'Brien		Roger Hunter
	Nathan Hutchings		Catherine O'Kane		David Hutton
	Christopher Ivey	2019	Pam Betts		Sue Kloeden
	Graeme McDonald		Bruce Addison	2024	Ray Kruger
2015	Julie Quinn		Pat Coughlan		Stephanie Munday-Lake*
	Simon Riley		Neville McDonald		Ken Rogers
	Donaugh Shirley		Andrew Pierpoint		Jason Sharland
	Judy Smeed*		Julie Raitelli		Richard Smith
2016	Brian Streatfield	2020	Christine Clarke		Sally Stephens
	Debra Ward		Martyn Savage	2021	Jenni Walsh
	Murray Wegner		Kerrie Tuite		Maryanne Walsh
	Roslyn Curtis		Patrea Walton*		David Warner*
	Darryl Early		Trevor Doyle		
2017	Jennifer Krenske	2021	Stacie Hansel	2022	
	Pamela Hall		Michael Newman		
			Sandra Nissen		

* Denotes National fellowship

The Miller-Grassie Award for Outstanding Leadership in Education

2010	Michael Byrne FACELQ	2015	Dr Kenneth Avenell FACEL	2021	Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM FACEL
2011	Professor Neil Dempster FACEL	2016	Professor Wendy Patton	2022	Karen Spiller OAM CF FACEL
2012	Associate Professor Dorothy Andrews FACEL	2017	Dr Joan Conway FACEL	2023	Jacinda Euler Welsh
2013	Dr Stephen Brown FACEL	2018	Professor Donna Pendergast	2024	Andrew Pierpoint
2014	Professor Glen Postle AM	2019	Dr Paul Browning		
		2020	Associate Professor Jill Willis		

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ACEL QLD Honorary Fellowships

A Fellowship (Honorary) was awarded to educators who are not ACEL members, but who are acknowledged as outstanding leaders in the practice and/or theory of educational leadership. The award was discontinued in 2018.

1979	George Bassett*	2011	Ross MacKay	2014	Paul Williamson
	Maurice Harnell		Adele Rice		Elizabeth Devonshire
1980	William Hurd*		Chris Sarra		Christine Hills
	Norman Hughes*	2012	Ray Bloxham		Kenneth Maclean
1981	Bernard O'Shea		Glen Hoppner	2015	Robin Cox
1985	McRae Grassie		Karen Howes		Andrew Hawke
1988	Clyde Gilmore		Jean Madden		Claire Wyatt-Smith
1990	Archibald Guymmer		Donna Muir	2016	Roselynn Anderson
1993	Francis Young		Julie Raitelli	2017	Chris Rider
2010	Stephen Foster	2013	Richard Gill		
	Neville Fynes-Clinton		Erica McWilliam		
	Robert Gilbert		Robyn Philpott		

The Frank Crowther Inspiring Educator Award

2010	Phillip Giblett	2015	Alison McCracken	2021	Debbie Schuler
	Karen Tanks	2016	Gerard Monsour	2022	Astrid Perkins
2011	Di Carter	2017	Heather Cowan	2023	Ian Burgess
2012	Darren Graham	2018	Wendy Martin	2024	Carynne Robinson
2013	Lis Hoey	2019	Samantha Johnstone		
2014	Clare Schinkel	2020	Graeme Morton AM		

ACEL QLD Emerging Educational Leadership Award

2008	Scott Gorringer	2019	Corey Kempthorne	2021	Julian Wenke
2010	Michael Nai	2020	School Leaders: Polly Crawford,		Dajana Zec
2012	Jack Manning-Bancroft		Naomi Gibb, Jennifer Smeed	2022	Rachael Clarke
2013	Pauline Newton		Indigenous Leaders: Townsville		Michael Crowe
2014	Yolanda Coutts		Catholic Education Indigenous		Liisa Hammond
	John Davis		Team (Tammi Webber,		Casey Robinson
	Baressa Frazer		Krista O'Connor, Janelle Knack)	2023	Jane Martens
2015	Leanne Odorico		Pivotal People: Angela Martlew,	2024	Megan Bishop
2016	Preston Parter		Doomadgee State School Team		Jemma Trendler
2018	Tegan Baumgart		(Sara Janke, Jessie Woldt, James		
	Alec Warner		Cook, Jelena Colic)		

ACEL QLD Indigenous Leadership Award

2021	Chris Bartlett Phyllis Marsh	2022	Jade Shaw
		2023	Tammy Baart

ACEL QLD Pivotal People Leadership Award

2021	Joni Cameron Madonna Potter Claire Preston The Gold Coast Pivotal People Organising Team (Elizabeth Benson, Nicole Elkins, Wendy McKay, Olivia Ross)	2023	Gae Nastasi Iain Taylor Katie Bryant Susan Garson Ormiston College Leadership Team Amanda Turner Holly Photiou Danielle Askin Jemma Trendler	2024	Amanda Hart Christopher Pollock David Lyon Jodie Schafer Jody Prouse Melissa Alexander Terry Byers Victoria Leighton
2022	Stephen Crapnell Joanna Holden Shannon Lacey Lyn McErlean				

ACEL QLD Research in Educational Leadership and Management Award

2009	Douglas Kiddell (QUT) Jacqueline McGregor (UQ) Christine Clarke (ACU) Dr Richard Scagliarini (USQ) Dr Stephen Brown (USQ)	2014	Dr Sally Pitkin (UQ) Dr Cheryl Bauman (USQ) Dr Ray Bloxham (QUT) Dr Anna du Plessis (UQ) Dr Andrea O'Brien (ACU)	2021	Dr Julie Lindsay (USQ), Dr Louise Wilkinson (JCU) Dr Damien Barry (GU) Ashley Moor (UQ) Dr Paul Teys (USQ)
2010	Michelle Buiatti (GU) Greg Parry (CQU) Daniel Pampuch (UQ) Tammy Somerwil (QUT) Rosemary Cooper (QUT)	2015	Wayne Batiste (QUT) Dr Kenneth Avenell (GU)	2022	Dr Liam Herbert (GU) Dr Tania Leach (USQ) Kylie Murphy (UQ) Dr Brett Rangiira (ACU) Jennifer Achari (QUT)
2011	Dr Mark Dawson (USQ) Dr Darren Iselin (UQ) Catherine Massetti (ACU) Dr Anders Kletthagen (QUT) Dr Senthurini Jeyaraj (USQ) Dr Philip Bulawa (JCU)	2016	Dr Linda Evans (QUT) Dr Susan Carter (USQ) Dr Steven Lewis (UQ)	2023	Katie Biggin (UQ) Dr Joanne Casey (USC) Dr Vicki Farwell (USQ) Dr Rebecca Maxwell (ACU) Dr Marnee Shay (UQ)
2012	Dr Katherine Jackman (QUT) Dr Sherilyn Lennon (USQ)	2017	Dr Shauna Petersen (USQ) Dr Amanda Heffernan (UQ) Dr Francis Raymond Ackah (GU) Dr Talitha Kingsmill (ACU) Dr Nerida Spina (QUT) Dr Belinda Holmes (USQ)	2024	Prof Rhonda Faragher AO (UQ)
2013		2018	Dr Natalia Swayne (QUT) Liam Auliciems (UQ)		
		2019			
		2020			

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ACEL QLD Media Award

2010	Madonna King ABC Frances Whiting The Sunday Mail	2019	Tanya Chilcott, Queensland College of Teachers	2021	Dr Judith Locke, Media Commentator and Author
2011	Madonna King, ABC			2022	Madonna King, Journalist, commentator and Author
2012	Richard Fidler, ABC	2020	The Learning @ home, Reading @ home & Coding @ home collaboration (Qld Department of Education, Channel 9 Qld, Network 10, Seven production)	2023	Sarah Kanowski Conversations ABC Radio and podcast Jessica Schwillk, Manager, Media Queensland Queensland College of Teachers
2013	Steve Austin, ABC				
2014	Mary-Rose Maccoll, The Courier Mail				
2016	Natasha Bitu, The Australian				
2017	Angela Mollard, The Sunday Mail				
2018	Rebecca Sparrow, Author				

ACEL QLD Educational Leadership Commendation Award

2014	Corrine McMillan Llew Paulger Andrew Peach		Amanda Hawkswell Kim McNamara Lisa Morrison	2022	Middleton, Erin Ware) Deanne Clark Sue Dalton
2015	Jon Andrews Christina Coogan Deb Evans Des Hyton	2019	Emily Simons Paul Zernike Nicole King		Sue Grotherr Dr Stephanie MacMahon Jacqueline Wilton
2016	Dr Jim Watterston FACEL	2020	Pamela Ruddell Diane Bukowski	2023	Dr Theresa Bourke Karen Caswell Joe Wright
2017	Vicki Caldwell		Paul Hornibrook, Phillip Makridakis		Jacqui Zervos
2018	Metropolitan Aspiring Leaders Group: Brad Clark Liz Foster	2021	Dr Suraiya Abdul Hameed, Ormiston College Wellbeing Team (Craig Askin, Sandra	2024	Tom McCormick Phyllis Marsh

Queensland Branch Presidents

Queensland Institute for Education		1991 - 1992	Neville Fry FACEL	Australian Council for Educational Leaders	
Administrators – Est. October 1972		1993 - 1994	Frank Crowther FACEL	(Queensland Branch)	
1972 - 1975	Clyde Gilmour FACELQ	1995 - 1996	Carolyn Harrod FACEL	2006	Colin Sutcliffe FACEL
1976 - 1978	Phil Cullen FACEL	1996 - 1998	Lester Mason FACELQ	2006 - 2008	Simon Boss-Walker FACEL
1978 - 1980	Laurie Miller FACEL	1998 - 2005	Ken Avenell FACEL	2008 - 2014	Helen Starr FACEL
1980 - 1986	John Roulston FACEL			2014 - 2020	Deborah Kember FACEL
1986 - 1988	Neil Flanagan FACELQ			2020 - 2023	Karen Fox FACEL
1988 - 1990	Jarvis Finger FACEL			2023 - 2024	Elizabeth Foster FACELQ

Life Members

Dorothy Andrews
 Ken Avenell
 Paul Bancroft
 Raymond Barrett
 Peter Boge
 Stephen Brown
 Ann Carroll
 Gregory Casey
 Peter Chapman
 Joan Conway
 Allan Cook
 Patrick Coughlan
 Mark Creedon
 Frank Crowther
 Trevor Doyle
 Charmaine Driver
 Patrick Duignan
 Lisa Ehrich
 Jarvis Finger
 Peter Freney
 Ross Horner

Norman Hunter
 David Hutton
 David Kopelke
 Kerry Latimer
 Veronica Lawson
 Marian Lewis
 David Manttan
 Garry Molloy
 Michael Myerson
 Terry Newman
 Peter Pashen
 Mary-Ellen Pattinson
 Lee-Anne Perry
 Randall Pointing
 Sidney Rasmussen
 Charles Reich
 Thomas Robertson
 David Robertson
 Ken Rogers
 John Roulston
 Brian Rout

Gwen Sands
 John Scanlan
 Ashley Smith
 Helen Starr
 Brendan Stockall
 Wayne Troyahn
 Geoffrey Van Der Vliet
 Mary Wallis
 Anthony Watt
 Murray Wegner
 Eric Wilson
 David Youitt
 John Roulston
 Frank Crowther FACEL
 Jervis Finger FACEL

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A statement of commitment to the profession of teaching

I acknowledge that I am a member of a profession that extends to me the opportunity and the privilege to make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

I bring to the profession my unique talents to teach and to lead, which I commit to nurturing and developing throughout my career.

I understand that teaching is a deeply human endeavour. While I teach subjects, ideas and skills, above all I teach young people, who are our future.

I recognise and respect the body of distinct theory and knowledge which is gifted to me by those who have come before. I draw from it and strive to contribute further to it.

I recognise that young people learn in different ways and at different rates.

I believe that given appropriate support and resourcing, all young people can learn, and I strive to nurture a love of learning that will help every young person to succeed.

I make judgements to evaluate student achievement through assessment that is valid, reliable and fair, and I give value to those learnings that cannot be measured.

I recognise that teaching is a collaborative profession and I am not the only teacher in a young person's life.

My work is enriched through working with my colleagues, learning from them and contributing to their practice.

I acknowledge the contribution of the many parents, caregivers, and teachers past, present and future who contribute to a young person's education.

I work with them wherever possible to enrich the learning of young people.

I offer a spirit of optimism, resilience and hope as I support young people to develop and act on the values, beliefs and capabilities that guide them throughout their lives.

I recognise the changing nature of knowledge, and I commit to continuous learning throughout my professional career.

In committing to this statement I accept the responsibilities of being a teacher, and acknowledge the deep trust placed in me by young people, parents, caregivers and society

The consultation, development and production of the statement were facilitated by the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (Queensland), April 2017.



Australian Council for
Educational Leaders

Being a member of ACEL means that you will have immediate opportunities to strengthen and develop your leadership capabilities while continually building on your professional learning as a leader. At ACEL we are committed to bringing professional learning and resources to you. ACEL supports the whole education sector including principals, middle school leaders, teachers, consultants and researchers. ACEL membership is a powerful tool for driving leadership change in the educational community.

In each Australian state and territory there is an active branch of ACEL working to ensure local needs are met, regional contexts are represented and significant opportunities and resources are driven from the grass-roots level. Our strategic networks continue to generate research and development work necessary to inform and support educational leadership.

Australian Council for Educational Leaders

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