

# 2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



## Jennifer Noble

Diploma in Primary Education  
Coffee Camp Public School, via Lismore, New South Wales  
Nominated by: School Parent Association

Position: Primary Teacher • Level taught: General Primary • School type: Government • Town: via Lismore • Category: Primary • State: NSW

### Helping every child to shine

With a father in the RAAF, Jennifer Noble experienced 13 different education settings while growing up. Coupled with her mother also being a teacher, Jennifer had plenty of personal experiences to build on when she entered the teaching profession herself. Jennifer has used these experiences to create an empowering and inspiring environment in her own classroom. Her programs are tailored towards the specific needs of each student. Pupils are given roles and tasks that are regularly rotated to engender personal responsibility, and the whole class holds meetings to discuss class problems and possible solutions.

Jennifer trained as an Aboriginal tutor and has worked with Aboriginal students to improve their learning outcomes. With more than 28 years teaching experience, Jennifer has also tutored and mentored many other teachers. She has introduced waste management systems to several schools. As one of Jennifer's Year 4 students wrote, "Ms Noble makes me feel like I want to shine as brightly as I can".

### Insight

Q: In your opinion, what makes a good teacher?

A: One who smiles a lot! One who promotes fairness, justice, and consistency and helps children recognise and foster inner resources and capacity to learn and grow.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: What fuels my enthusiasm is the warmth I receive from anonymous flowers, cards and cakes left on my table and thank-you notes from parents.

Q: In hindsight, what do you wish your training provided you with more of?

A: Learning how to enable children to defuse their emotions, particularly anger, through creative arts and play. This would aid the promotion of resilience and well-being.

Q: What is the most difficult aspect of teaching today?

A: Often young people's outlook on life is bleak and filled with despair and hopelessness. Restoring the faith and trust in themselves, adults and their world is difficult.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: Teaching children to be happy, to value themselves, to accept those who are different, and to appreciate how lucky we are, as Australians, is challenging.

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: The notion of 'family' has altered significantly resulting in less parental involvement within the school community. Societal accountability in schools has also increased dramatically.

Q: What is the single most important thing you, as a teacher, can do to connect with individual students?

A: I believe being approachable is the single most important ingredient. Being an active listener, being sincere and non-judgmental are vital to maintaining mutual respect.

Q: If you were the Minister for Education, Science and Training for a week, what would you try to change?

A: I would give multi-cultural and Aboriginal studies a higher priority in the curriculum in order to promote understanding, tolerance and harmony in our community.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: If I haven't reached a child in need, if I feel I have let a child down in some capacity, or I've left a promise unfulfilled.

Q: If your students could describe you in three words, what would they say?

A: Fair, fun and caring.

#### Contact Details:

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