

# 2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



## Kerry Regan

National Accelerated Literacy Program, Darwin, Northern Territory

Nominated By: School parent

Position: Literacy Coordinator • Level taught: Secondary School • School type: Government • Town: Darwin • Category: Secondary • State: NT

### *Seeing literacy as the tool to access mainstream society*

Kerry Regan is the teacher leader of the *National Accelerated Literacy Program* that aims to bridge the educational divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and raise the English literacy levels of all students. The program focuses on improving outcomes for Indigenous students, building the capacity of teachers in remote schools, and engaging communities in their children's learning experiences.

The National Accelerated Literacy Program has been introduced to 50 schools to date across the Northern Territory with steady gains being made in students' literacy levels. In 2006, several of the schools involved in the program received top honours or high commendations in the *National Literacy Awards*.

Kerry has long believed that literacy is the tool for students to access mainstream society, and so she was proud to be one of the first teachers in Australia to work with accelerated learning principles in 1998. Today she continues to help bring innovative educational opportunities to some of Australia's most remotely located students.

## *Insight*

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

A: I believe that a 'good' teacher is one who is inclusive of all their students, is prepared, flexible, and knowledgeable and also has a sense of humour.

*Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?*

A: My enthusiasm comes from the marginalised students I have worked with my entire teaching career. When you see increased self-esteem and confidence as a student learns to read, this is priceless.

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

A: The developmental stages of reading, writing and spelling.

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

A: Change - keeping up with the current theories and changes in schooling. In the Northern Territory, we are moving into 'middle schooling', which is a major change for most secondary teachers.

*Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?*

A: To make sure that every student I teach has access to secondary schooling and ultimately can make informed choices about their future.

*Q: How has teaching changed over the years?*

A: You used to be able to resist the massive changes in technology but the students know more than us so you need to embrace it as best you can.

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

A: Respect each student as individuals, respect their backgrounds and be understanding of their personal situations. In other words you need to actually get to know your students.

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

A: I would make it mandatory that literacy is taught in all schools across Australia for a minimum of two hours per day.

*Q: What keeps you awake at night?*

A: The standard of literacy of Indigenous students in the Northern Territory.

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

A: Makes learning fun.

### **Contact Details:**

Principal: Joy Pedersen  
Phone: (08) 8999 3267

Teacher: Kerry Regan  
Phone: (08) 8999 3217 or 0417 869 833  
Email: kerry.regan@nt.gov.au

### **For further information, please contact:**

Janet Thomas, Public Relations, ASG on behalf of the NEiTA Foundation.  
Telephone: (03) 9276 7758 Mobile: 0402 837 758 Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au

The NEiTA Foundation is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited  
ABN 21 087 648 879 Head Office: 23-35 Hanover Street Oakleigh Victoria 3166  
Telephone: (03) 9276 7777 Facsimile: (03) 9563 2780 Website: www.asg.com.au or www.neita.com

Proudly supported by



**Australian  
Scholarships  
Group**

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION