

NEiTA 2009 ASG National Teaching Awards

National Award Recipient



Jane McQueen

Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Trained Teacher's Certificate, Graduate Certificate
in Accelerated Literacy

Karama Primary School, Karama, Northern Territory

Nominated by: School Council

National Award Category: Innovation

Position: School and Hub School Coordinator for Accelerated Literacy • Category: Primary • Level taught: Accelerated Literacy - Preschool to year 6 • Years teaching: 16 years • Years at this school: 4 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Karama • State: Northern Territory • Postcode: 0831

How do you inspire your students?

High expectations are held for all students and staff. The planning and coaching I do with teachers, and the training and mentoring I give to tutors, enables me to showcase the benefits of a teacher/tutor partnership to students and class teachers with significant success. But I also influence outcomes indirectly by improving teacher and tutor pedagogical proficiency and confidence.

Increasing educational outcomes through Accelerated Literacy teaching

As Coordinator for Accelerated Literacy at Karama School, Jane McQueen has not only been instrumental in implementing the Accelerated Literacy program, but also in increasing the self-esteem and educational horizons for many students. Jane works with teachers, support staff and parents to create both opportunities for learning and professional development sessions.

In 2008, Jane's efforts were recognised by the Department of Education and Training when Karama School became a Northern Territory hub school for Accelerated Literacy Practice. As a recognised Accelerated Literacy hub school site, Karama School attracts approximately 100 visiting educators each year who wish to observe the workings of a successful Accelerated Literacy school.

Jane coordinates these visits, incorporating a range of experiences for the educators whether they are Indigenous assistant teachers, principals, administration officers, school coordinators or class teachers. She helps to train and coach not only these visitors, but also the teachers at her own school, in adopting specific Accelerated Literacy techniques such as joint lesson planning, team lessons, lesson observation, reflective video analysis of lessons and data interpretation. In addition to coordinating all these visits, Jane also offers a support service to several remote Indigenous Accelerated Literacy schools.

Jane's methods have resulted in improved outcomes for Indigenous, English as a second language, and non-Indigenous students in literacy and numeracy, and also in self-esteem, resilience and confidence. Jane is an integral part of the culture of Karama School, and she plays a significant role in enabling all students and staff to become empowered learners.

Contact details:

Principal: Mrs Margaret Fenbury
Phone: 08 8920 3600

Teacher: Jane McQueen
Phone: 0439 896 411

Email: jane.mcqueen@ntschoools.net

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

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ABN 21 087 648 879 Head Office: 23-35 Hanover Street Oakleigh Victoria 3166
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