

# NEiTA MEDIA RELEASE

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## Shine the spotlight on Inspirational Teachers

Nominations are now open for the NEiTA 2010 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards – Australia's only national, independent community-centred teaching awards program that gives Australian secondary students, parents, early childhood and school communities the opportunity to formally thank their hard-working, inspirational teachers, principals and directors.

NEiTA – the National Excellence in Teaching Awards – is a pioneer in teaching awards that has worked in partnership with communities across Australia to help raise the profile and recognition of teaching. This year the NEiTA program recognises the range of leadership qualities that inspirational teachers bring both to their roles and the teaching profession with the theme, 'Great Teachers Lead The Way'.

NEiTA's chairman, Mr Terry O'Connell says leadership qualities are vitally important in the makeup of an inspiring and excellent teacher.

"When the community generally thinks of leaders, it is usually in association with our national heroes, or political and business figures," Mr O'Connell says.

"But Australia's educators, who demonstrate their leadership skills every day, often go unrecognised. NEiTA aims to help remedy this and shine the limelight on the host of leadership qualities that inspirational teachers possess.

"*Great Teachers Lead The Way*' as they guide and inspire their students in learning, provide support and encouragement to parents and colleagues, and forge community connections and exchange," Mr O'Connell says.

"Inspirational teachers who lead the way work throughout the early childhood, primary and secondary education spectrums and it is a real benefit to the teaching profession that the wider community continue to honour these outstanding representatives of teaching excellence," Mr O'Connell said. "I encourage communities to nominate now!"

### Who can nominate?

Australian parents, school councils, committees of management, parent associations, secondary student councils, and community organisations.

### Who can be nominated?

Early childhood and school teachers from the spectrum of education settings, and leaders — principals, deputy principals, early childhood centre directors, team leaders, and department heads can be nominated for a NEiTA award in the leadership and development, innovation or community engagement categories.

### Why nominate?

To say thank you, to recognise, celebrate or congratulate an inspirational teacher, principal or director.

### How to nominate?

Nominate online or download a nomination form from the NEiTA website – [www.neita.com.au](http://www.neita.com.au) Alternatively, contact NEiTA on free call 1800 624 487 or email [neita@asg.com.au](mailto:neita@asg.com.au)

### When do nominations close?

30 July 2010

### What are the qualities of inspirational teachers?

- Develop in students a strong and long-lasting love of learning
- Inspire students to achieve to the best of their ability
- Encourage student empowerment and self-belief (resiliency)
- Stimulate students' creativity and innovative thinking
- Create innovative teaching environments
- Have a positive influence on colleagues and community

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### For more information, please contact:

Janet Thomas or Hang Trinh, Public Relations, ASG on behalf of NEiTA  
Ph: 03 9276 7758 or 03 9276 7786 Mob: 0402 837 758  
Email: [publicrelations@asg.com.au](mailto:publicrelations@asg.com.au)

NEiTA is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited ABN 21 087 648 879

Head Office: 23-35 Hanover Street Oakleigh Victoria 3166 Phone: (03) 9276 7777 Fax: (03) 9276 7745 [www.neita.com](http://www.neita.com)

Contact: Public Relations Email: [publicrelations@asg.com.au](mailto:publicrelations@asg.com.au)

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