

# NEiTA BACKGROUND

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NEiTA (National Excellence in Teaching Awards) was formed in 1994 to recognise the teaching profession and the important role it plays in shaping young minds. NEiTA has given much deserved recognition to thousands of *excellent and inspirational* teachers across Australia and New Zealand.

Known as the *people's choice* teaching awards, NEiTA enables school parents, secondary students, school councils, parent associations, committees of management and community organisations to nominate teachers who they believe to be committed, dedicated and outstanding representatives of the teaching profession.

Through its mission of promoting and encouraging excellence in teaching, NEiTA is helping to raise the profile of the teaching profession and inspire students to consider becoming a part of one of the most valuable resources a country has - its education system.

Since the NEiTA awards were initiated, over 18,000 nominations have been received. More than half a million dollars has been distributed in grants for professional development, and prizes and endowments organised in conjunction with partners and sponsors.

NEiTA Awards are open to all qualified full-time teachers and principals in primary and secondary schools, and to qualified early childhood teachers and directors who teach preschool programs for at least 20 hours a week.

This year the theme is *Great Teachers Change The Future Today*, and nominations for principals are sought for the first time, as well as teachers.

There are three levels of recognition for teachers, directors and principals nominated in the awards program:

## 1. Certificates of Nomination

All teachers who receive a valid nomination will be presented with a NEiTA Certificate of Nomination.

## 2. Finalists

Approved nominated teachers who elect to further participate in the NEiTA awards complete a Teacher Self-Portrait Form online.

## 3. State and Territory Awards

**ASG Inspirational Teaching State and Territory Awards** will be presented to 60 teachers from all states and territories during November 2009 in recognition of their exemplary classroom skills and innovative approaches to teaching.

## 4. National Awards and Grants

Selected from the ASG Inspirational Teaching recipients, 10 teachers will receive National Awards commemorated with a specially crafted NEiTA crystal apple award and a professional or project development grant of \$5,000.

National Awards will be granted across three categories: Leadership and Development, Innovation and Community Engagement. One National awardee will be selected as Australia's Inspirational Teacher to participate in the International Space Camp held in Alabama, USA, in July 2010.

For further information, visit [www.neita.com](http://www.neita.com) or contact NEiTA on free call 1800 624 487 or email [neita@asg.com.au](mailto:neita@asg.com.au)

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