



Department of  
Education and Training

## ***Media Statement***

8 July 2009

*Attention: Editor/Chief of Staff*

### **Nominate now for the 2009 WA Education Awards**

Western Australia's best teacher in a country school for 2008 has urged Western Australians to nominate their favourite public school teacher for the 2009 WA Education Awards.

Albany Senior High School's Judy Williams said nominating a teacher for the awards was a moving way to show them that their work was appreciated by parents and the wider community.

"When my colleagues first showed me the letters that students, parents and teachers had contributed to my nomination, it brought tears to my eyes," Mrs Williams said.

"People still talk about my win and congratulate me because the awards mean so much to those in the teaching profession.

"I recommend that nominating an individual be a whole school process – it's not only about the teacher but most importantly about school students."

Ms Williams, who has been a teacher for 45 years, still gets excited when her students follow their passion and succeed.

Nominations for the 2009 WA Education Awards are now open.

The categories and prizes for 2009 are:

- Premier's Teacher of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Principal of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA School Support Staff Member of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Literacy School of the Year sponsored by Edith Cowan University – \$15 000
- WA Numeracy School of the Year sponsored by Teachers Credit Union – \$15 000
- WA Science School of the Year sponsored by ExxonMobil – \$15 000.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said the awards recognised Western Australia's best educators.

"Quality teachers, principals, support staff and schools are the basis of a great education," she said.

"The professional learning opportunities created by the awards and the cash prizes to schools benefit the whole school community and teachers are able to engage students in exciting lessons which enhance their learning.

"Give your child's teacher, school or principal the ultimate thank you by nominating them for an award."

Anyone interested in nominating a school or staff member for the WA Education Awards should talk with their school's principal.

Nomination kits are available from all public schools or using [det.wa.edu.au/educationawards](http://det.wa.edu.au/educationawards).

(ENDS)

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