

September 2021

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Lester Kerber

**For service to Lutheran education
1992 - 2023**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Lester Kerber to Lutheran education for 30 years.

Lester has served across a number of Lutheran schools, including Yirara College, NT, Ocean Forest Lutheran College, WA, Luther College, Victoria, and most recently as Director – Business Services at Lutheran Education Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

Initially his gifts with accounting and finance were his most desirable assets, but over the years his significant contributions have been broader operationally and strategically. His positive, friendly, mission focused approach and leadership has significantly benefited the Lutheran schools and Church he has supported.

Within schools, Lester's contributions were not restricted to administration and office duties. Leading student and staff devotions, working backstage at school musical productions, taking students on outdoor education experiences, school camps, supporting open days, scholarship days and environmental club, Lester was about community and used his gifts and talents in a variety of ways to serve his God through serving others.

Lester demonstrates a commitment to continual improvement in the operations of the organisations that he leads, seeing this as the best way to enhance the opportunities for students and their learning. It was what was best for the students and their learning that drove his passion and his business decisions. In doing so, the schools which he has led have been student focused.

Lester models servant leadership. In addition to his daily activities, Lester can be found serving meals at The Dining Room, a local community meal program for those in need, humbly serving those who are seeking a friend and a hearty meal. Central to Lester's character is his strong belief in God. His faith has shaped his personality and his outlook complements the ethos and values that Lutheran education aspires to. Lester is engaged, caring, dedicated and professional, with a strong ability to befriend others. People are drawn to his easy-going, interested and tolerant manner towards them.

In addition to his contributions to Lutheran Education, Lester has diligently served his professional associations and colleagues, holding various leadership roles in associations such as the Association of School Business Administrators (ASBA).

Lester's faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this Award.

**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia**

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