

December 2022

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Debbie West-McInnes

**For service to Lutheran education
1997 – 2022**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Debbie West-McInnes to Lutheran Education for 26 years.

Debbie commenced her service in Lutheran education in January 1997 when she was appointed as a teacher at Good News Lutheran School, Middle Park, Queensland, where she served for over a decade. In January 2008, Debbie became a Founding staff member of St Peters Lutheran College Springfield, Queensland. Debbie was the College's first Prep teacher and a leader of the Junior School. In 2015, Debbie commenced in the role of inaugural Head of Primary Years at St Peters Springfield. Within this role, she was responsible for the strategic and operational leadership of the Primary Years as well as Kindergarten and Outside School Hours Care. Debbie also served as Acting Principal in 2021.

Debbie's enthusiasm and clear, analytical and strategic thinking, as well as her courage and determination, have assisted each Lutheran school in which she has served to develop into a strong educational institution. In the classroom, Debbie has been committed to purposefully developing positive, engaging learning climates. Debbie will be remembered by her colleagues for her caring support of students and staff, servant leadership and passionate, proactive and dedicated approach.

Debbie's service more broadly to Lutheran Education has also been evident in a number of committee and governance roles. Debbie served with distinction on the Council of Lutheran Education Queensland (CLEQ) from 2013 to 2019, bringing a commonsense approach to her role as a council member. As part of her role on CLEQ, Debbie joined Queensland Lutheran Early Childhood Services (QLECS) Council in 2014 and served until the conclusion of 2018, bringing her practical early childhood and leadership expertise in support of the Council and its early childhood and school-aged care services. Her strong commitment to this role was invaluable as she provided wisdom and guidance through decision making processes that had a broad impact across QLECS services. Debbie also served as the forerunner to QLECS Council, the Early Childhood Committee from the early 2000s through to 2013. Debbie also found time to serve as a member of the Good News Lutheran School Council from February 2014 through to December 2015,

Debbie's own commitment to her Christian faith and her ability to show commitment through her decision making and relationships has been a shining example to many people. Her excellent interpersonal skills with students, parents, staff members and the wider community are apparent every day; she has consistently sought to understand individuals and situations and is honest, responsible and empathetic. Debbie's approach has enabled her to form strong partnerships to best develop the hearts and minds of young people.

Debbie's faithful, conscientious and diligent service to her Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through her 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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