

MEDIA RELEASE



17 October 2011

NT teacher wins prestigious national award

At the 2011 Australian Awards for Outstanding Teaching and School Leadership ceremony held in Melbourne on 13 October, Jo Sherrin, teacher-librarian at Bradshaw Primary School was announced as the Australian Primary Teacher of the Year. Several other Northern Territory educators were recognised as finalists.

Jo Sherrin received the award for her expert knowledge, exemplary skills and unwavering commitment to meeting the education needs of the students she teaches.

- Judith O'Hearn of Palmerston Senior College - Australian Secondary Teacher of the Year finalist.
- Karen Blanchfield of Ross Park Primary School - Australian Primary Principal of the Year finalist.
- Tim Webb of Belyuen School - Australian Government Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching or Leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education finalist.

These educators were recognised, along with 35 others, as some of the country's most outstanding teachers and school leaders across five award categories.

The prestigious national event was hosted by the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, who presented the awards to the national winners, and by State and Territory Education Ministers.

"The new Australian Awards for Outstanding teaching and School Leadership provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the nation's most talented, innovative and inspirational school teachers and leaders," said Anthony Mackay, Chair of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, which managed the Awards for the Australian Government.

"They shine a light on the outstanding contribution these individuals, and indeed all teachers and school leaders across Australia, make to provide the best possible learning opportunities for their students," said Mr Mackay. "The Awards also recognise the significant contribution that teachers and school leaders make as community leaders."

As an award winner, Ms Sherrin will undertake a national and/or international sabbatical to work with leading educators in an area of professional interest.

For a full list of state and territory finalists and winners visit: www.aitsl.edu.au

Contact details for enquiries:
AITSL, Brisbane office: 07 3010 0111