**26 October 2018**

**Five of Queensland’s most inspirational teachers named for World Teachers’ Day**

Five of the state’s most inspiring teachers have been named winners of prestigious state teaching awards, as Queensland celebrates World Teachers’ Day today.

The winners include a 72-year-old champion of non-mainstream students who has been teaching for 50 years; a kindergarten teacher who has taught children yoga, meditation and sign language; a teacher who inspired a generation of tech girls at her school; an eLearning coordinator who has changed the way students and teachers have interacted for more than 100 years; and a deputy principal who helped galvanise her school community to help release a student from immigration detention.

The winners of this year’s Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Excellence in Teaching Awards are:

Excellence in Beginning to Teach Award: Mweisi ‘Moy’ Carra, C&K White Rock Community Kindergarten, Cairns.

Excellence in Teaching Award: Natalie Harris, Pacific Pines Primary School, Gold Coast.

Excellent Leadership in Teaching and Learning Award: Stephen Crapnell, All Hallows’ School, Brisbane.

Outstanding Contribution to School Community Award: Jessica Walker, Yeronga State High School.

Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Award: Colin Orevich, Australian Industry Trade College, Gold Coast campus. ‘Mr O’ received a standing ovation after his award acceptance speech.

Education Minister Grace Grace said that teachers played a vital role in delivering a quality education to every young Queenslander.

“Congratulations to all the winners of the QCT awards – what a wonderful achievement for you all,” Ms Grace said.

“I have visited many schools across the state over the last 10 months and I am in awe of the work our teachers do each and every day,” she said.

“Thank you all for your dedication and hard work and I wish you all a very Happy World Teachers’ Day.”

QCT Board Chair Professor Emeritus Wendy Patton also congratulated the five winners on their outstanding commitment to changing lives through the teaching profession.

“Each of the winners is making an extraordinary difference in the lives of their students and their school communities,” Professor Emeritus Patton said.

“The QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards showcase the exceptional teaching we have in every schooling sector and in every geographical location of this state,” she said.

“Our winners demonstrate the creative and innovative way Queensland teachers work in all school communities across the state. This work happens in classrooms, and in partnerships with all members of school communities.”

The winners were announced last night at a ceremony at Customs House. There were 27 finalists and 230 nominations across the five categories. The QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards are the only state government awards that recognise teachers from all schooling sectors and the early childhood education sector, across all subjects.