

30 October 2020

Media Release

Teachers Triumph in 2020 - #ThankQldTeachers

2020 has been a year of triumph for 30 exceptional Queensland independent school teachers who have earned the highest levels of professional career recognition in Australia.

The regional and metropolitan teachers have been certified by Independent School Queensland (ISQ) as Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers (HALT) - the two most advanced levels of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (see list of schools below).

They bring to 86 the total number of HALTs working in Queensland independent schools and join a further 750 certified teachers nationwide.

HALT certification is overseen nationally by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and undertaken locally by certifying authorities including ISQ. Teachers applying for certification undergo a rigorous evaluation process that involves gathering evidence of their teaching practices, classroom observations and peer and student reviews.

ISQ Executive Director David Robertson said the latest HALT-certified independent school educators were representative of the high calibre of teaching expertise in the sector.

"It's timely to recognise these teachers on World Teachers' Day, Friday 30 October," Mr Robertson said.

"ISQ is proud to be part of a statewide campaign that celebrates the valuable role and considerable contributions of Queensland teachers," Mr Robertson said. [Watch ISQ's World Teachers' Day video message](#)

"Teaching is a vocation – it's the heart's work of the men and women who choose to lead and inspire learning in classrooms, early learning centres, music rooms, science labs, skills centres and on sporting fields across the state," he said.

"I would particularly like to thank the 10,000 teachers working in Queensland's 218 independent schools for going above and beyond during 2020. They deserve our heartfelt thanks for their unwavering dedication and commitment to continuing student learning, particularly our senior teachers who have implemented the new Queensland Certificate of Education system through the disruptions of a global pandemic." [Read a selection of teacher stories from the sector](#)

AITSL Chief Executive Officer Mark Grant commended the newly certified Queensland independent school HALTs "for their commitment to grow and develop their professional expertise, for the benefit of student learning, despite the many challenges that 2020 has brought with it".

"I congratulate the individual teachers, the school leaders, colleagues and families who have supported them, and of course ISQ who continues to play a key role in championing HALTs and their impact in Queensland," Mr Grant said.

Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network (QIS Parents Network) Executive Officer Justine Cirocco congratulated the sector's latest HALTs while also extending her thanks to all teachers on World Teachers' Day.

"I encourage all school communities to celebrate their teaching superheroes today. They deserve our thanks, respect and support – not just today, but every day," Ms Cirocco said.

30 October 2020

Media Release

In 2020, 30 teachers at the following independent schools achieved Highly Accomplished (second highest level) or Lead Teacher (highest level) certification. They will be formally recognised at a ceremony at Customs House in Brisbane in December:

Annandale Christian College (North Queensland)
Cannon Hill Anglican College (Brisbane)
Coomera Anglican College (Gold Coast)
Fairholme College (Toowoomba)
Ipswich Adventist School
John Paul College (Logan)
Matthew Flinders Anglican College (Sunshine Coast)
Mueller College (Rothwell, Moreton Bay region)
Saint Stephen's College (Gold Coast)
St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School (Corinda, Brisbane)
St Andrew's Anglican College (Sunshine Coast)
St Luke's Anglican School (Bundaberg)
The Rockhampton Grammar School
West Moreton Anglican College (Ipswich)

These teachers join 56 existing HALT-certified teachers in Queensland's independent school sector.

Listen to [ISQ's School Bell Podcast with QUT's Dr Jill Willis](#) who is working with ISQ's HALT certification program and researching its outcomes.

Media contact | Justine Nolan | 0428 612 315 | jnolan@isq.qld.edu.au