



Department of  
Education and Training

## ***Media Statement***

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31 July 2009

### **Last chance to nominate for the WA Education Awards 2009**

Western Australians have just two weeks to nominate their favourite schools, teachers, school support staff and principals for the 2009 WA Education Awards.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said nominating an extraordinary educator was a special way to thank them for the great work they do every day.

"Nominations close 5pm on Friday 14 August, so I urge people to nominate someone who have made a difference to their child's school experiences now," Ms O'Neill said.

Hamilton Senior High School teacher and last year's Premier's Teacher of the Year Rosinda Seara said it was a privilege to be nominated and then win because she knew the quality of public school teachers she was up against.

"There is no greater compliment than to nominate a special teacher for these awards," Ms Seara said.

"It was an awesome feeling to think that all my hard work and sacrifice was being recognised especially because I was just doing what I love.

"I think the allocation of money towards professional learning is important because it provides opportunities that may not be available to teachers otherwise.

"In August I'll be attending the World Gifted Conference in Vancouver learning the latest gifted and talented teaching methods and which will benefit my students greatly."

Ms O'Neill said nominees could win a share in \$120,000 in prize money, giving the winners opportunities to participate in valuable professional learning activities.

"Enhancing the skills and resources of our schools is an integral part of the awards and students reap all the benefits," she said.

Nomination kits are available from all public schools or through [det.wa.edu.au/educationawards](http://det.wa.edu.au/educationawards).

The categories and prizes for 2009 are:

- Premier's Teacher of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Principal of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA School Support Staff Member of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Literacy School of the Year sponsored by Edith Cowan University – \$15 000
- WA Numeracy School of the Year sponsored by Teachers Credit Union – \$15 000
- WA Science School of the Year sponsored by ExxonMobil – \$15 000.

Winners of the WA Education Awards will be announced at a presentation breakfast at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre on Monday 7 December.

Anyone interested in nominating a school or staff member for the WA Education Awards should talk with their school's principal.

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