

October 2017

## **LEA SERVICE RETIREMENT AWARD**

**Lester Saegenschnitter**

**For services to Lutheran schooling  
1976 – 2017**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Lester Saegenschnitter to Lutheran schools for 42 years.

Lester commenced his service in Lutheran education at Immanuel College, Novar Gardens SA, as a Science teacher and during his time there, also served as Head of House, tennis coordinator and volleyball coach. In 1984 Lester moved to Luther College, Croydon Vic, to take up the role of Head of Science before moving in 1986 to a similar role at Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda SA. In 1994 Lester moved to Queensland where he served as Head of Science at Redeemer Lutheran College, Rochedale, and then as Dean of Students at Trinity Lutheran College, Ashmore. In 2000 he returned to South Australia to take up the position of Director of Studies at Concordia College, Highgate. During his time at Concordia, he served as Acting Principal at various times before being appointed as Deputy Principal in 2005 and Principal in 2006. Lester served continuously at the college until his retirement in 2017.

Lester's main teaching areas were Science and Physics and he also taught year 12 Faith Issues for several years. Lester was always an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher. He cultivated a culture of academic excellence while maintaining a strong focus on the pastoral care of students. He nurtured and sustained a caring and environment for students and teachers through his genuine Christian leadership and values. Lester shared his beliefs in many chapel devotions and encouraged a sense of acceptance and belonging. At Concordia he initiated the expansion of the ministry team and enhanced the sense of community and a culture of service within the college.

Lester actively contributed to the wider Lutheran system of schools. He sat on a number of boards and committees including the Lutheran Schools Association Finance Committee (including as Chair), the Lutheran Schools Association Council (including as Chair), the Board for Lutheran Education Australia and the SSABSA Board. His involvement within the wider education sector has seen him gain influence and respect in the independent school sector and the wider education sector.

Lester continually focused on enriching the educational program. His desire to provide innovative learning spaces and quality facilities has been the driving force for the Concordia's building program, which has seen significant developments including the Atrium, Murtoa, the new administration area and the Science and Art building.

Lester is to be commended for his considered leadership of the teaching staff and his commitment to support staff to develop their potential. Lester pursued fairness and consideration to create a harmonious team and community. As a result, Lester is viewed with affection and respect by Concordia staff, parents and students, both past and present. Lester has been an exemplary Principal whose vision, engagement and unwavering commitment has ensured an excellent education for all students.

Lester's faithful and conscientious service to the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this Award.

**Stephen Rudolph  
Executive Director  
Lutheran Education Australia**

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