

December 2018

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Robert Sellars

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1989 – 2018**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Pastor Robert Sellars to Lutheran education over a period of 25 years.

Robert commenced his service in Lutheran schools in 1989 when he accepted the Call as School Pastor at Concordia College, Highgate SA. Robert served at Concordia for 15 years and throughout his time gained high respect from his students, fellow staff and the wider community. His theological thinking showed in his education practice and his willingness to engage with staff and students in a multitude of socio-cultural issues. His promotion of student involvement in chapel worship and community service were also hallmarks of his time at Concordia. It should also be noted that his positive relationship and engagement with college school pastors and chaplains across Lutheran education had a considerable impact as Lutheran schools grappled with complex social questions.

In 2004 Robert moved to take up the challenge as Principal at Eastside Lutheran College, Hobart Tas. It was, and still is, apparent that Robert is one of the few people who has the skills and ability to be both pastor and principal. His leadership and example at Eastside Lutheran College has lasted more than the four years he spent in Hobart. Today, the college has expanded to an R – year 12 college with in excess of 250 students with a significant culture of parental and student engagement and community links. Robert's leadership and vision saw much of this school culture set during his time as Principal.

In 2008, Robert was engaged by Lutheran Education Australia where his considerable skills and knowledge were utilised as a co-writer of *Pathways: theological focus*, a formation program for teachers in Lutheran schools. After 2009, Robert served with the Lutheran Church Australia in the areas of media ministry, research assistant to the General President as well as caring for congregations,

In 2014 and 2015, Robert willingly and selflessly took up a relief roles as Senior Administrator at Crossways Lutheran School, Ceduna SA, and as Principal at Living Waters Lutheran College, Halls Head WA. His adaptability and deep understanding of Lutheran education and servant leadership provided a source of stability and strength to both school communities in times of need. In 2016 he returned to Adelaide, taking up a teaching role at teaching at Immanuel College for one semester in 2016 before moving in July 2016 to Our Saviour Lutheran School, Aberfoyle Park SA, to assist with 'resettling' the school. During his time at Our Saviour he has been able to engage with students, staff, congregation and the wider community to enable the school to continue to prosper. His willingness to listen, analyse and offer support and encouragement have been deeply appreciated.

Robert has led and served faithfully and courageously. He epitomised true servant leadership and will be remembered by his colleagues and wider school communities for his caring support and his willingness to take time out to discuss issues of concern whenever needed.

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

**Stephen Rudolph
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