

December 2019

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Karen Klein

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1993 - 2019**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and conscientious service of Karen Klein to Sunshine Christian School for over 27 years.

Karen's association with the school began when her children were first enrolled. At that time the school belonged to the Uniting Church of Australia. Karen frequently volunteered to help in the school and her skills and passion were quickly identified and valued.

Karen commenced employment at Sunshine Christian School, Sunshine North in 1993 and was appointed Secretary. In 2004 the school became a school of the Lutheran Church of Australia and Karen continued in this position.

Karen's listening ear and sage advice made her the first point of call for supporting the wellbeing of parents, students and staff. Her passion for the school, staff, students and parents has enabled her to forge strong relationships. Going over and above her secretarial duties, she spent many hours listening patiently to parent concerns or to show special attention to students who were sick, injured or just in need of a loving adult.

Karen's ability to effectively communicate to parents, students and staff of culturally diverse backgrounds ensured the community clearly understood the Christian values and ethics of the school and Lutheran education. Karen invested significant time and effort into developing an intricate knowledge of the families' backgrounds, networks and languages so that the school could best support and communicate with them, hiring translators if necessary. Her commitment to the Christian faith was evident in this level of care which she extended to all in the community daily.

Karen will be remembered by her colleagues for her caring support, wise advice, frankness and humour. She was always willing to take time out to discuss issues of concern with colleagues, and knew just the right way to lighten the mood and put things in perspective. She often stayed back, took work home or came in on days off so that she could have everything organised and ready for important occasions. Karen epitomised true servant leadership and showed genuine interest and concern for the welfare of every member of the community.

Karen's faithful and conscientious service to God and to the Lutheran Church of Australia, through her service at Sunshine Christian School, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this award.

**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia**

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