

November 2020

**LEA SERVICE AWARD**

*Joan Hirsimaki*

**For services to Lutheran schooling  
1999 - 2020**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Joan Hirsimaki to Lutheran education for 22 years.

Joan has always displayed a willingness to support students across the primary school and has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of children.

Joan commenced her service to Immanuel Lutheran College in a volunteer capacity in 1998 and took on a more permanent role in March 2000. Joan's genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of children meant she worked alongside her students with care and compassion to see them achieve their full potential.

Joan is a thoughtful person and was valued by staff throughout the college. She has helped support students at Sunshine Coast Independent Schools Sports Association events as well as support-a-reader, multi-lit programs and recently SHARP Reading.

Joan displayed a positive attitude to all tasks asked of her and often went the extra mile. She is humble, gracious, empathetic, and passionate and her Christian faith was evident in all she undertook. Joan is a faithful and selfless servant of the church and actively shares the gospel and pastorally supports everyone around her. All who encounter Joan are enriched by the interaction.

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

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

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