

April 2023

**LEA SERVICE AWARD**

*Sandra Mendez-Cortes*

**For service to Lutheran education  
1994 – 2023**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Sandra Mendez-Cortes to Lutheran education for 29 years.

Throughout her 29-year tenure as Tuckshop Convenor at Trinity Lutheran College, Sandra has fostered lifelong friendships among staff, students, and parents who frequented her tuckshop. Her welcoming attitude and straightforward personality made everyone feel at home, and she went above and beyond to care for everyone. Many parents began their connection with the school through volunteering at the tuckshop, with life-long friendships formed. Sandra's care is exemplified by the relationships she maintains with many families long after their children have left Trinity. Sandra always ensured that every student and staff member who entered the tuckshop was treated with kindness and respect. As a result of her hard work, dedication, and personal touch, the tuckshop has become more than just a place to buy food. It has become a central hub for the college community, where students and staff alike have come to appreciate the warm, friendly environment created by Sandra's leadership.

Sandra has an open heart and a generous spirit. She has truly shown her service heart in her many years as Tuckshop Convenor and her commitment to supporting those in need was unwavering. Whether it was organising food rosters or fundraisers, Sandra always worked tirelessly to help those who were struggling. She would often come to school with a thoughtful gift for a child in need or a parent experiencing a hard time. Her no-nonsense approach is balanced by her caring heart and her genuine consideration of others. Her kindness extended to all students, even those with challenging behaviours, and she had a special spot in her heart for those who may have needed a little extra support. Sandra's firm but kind approach helped to create a safe and supportive environment where all students felt valued and cared for, and her tuckshop was often the first place returning students went to when visiting the Junior Campus. Sandra's service heart extended beyond the school community as she spent innumerable hours supporting Lifeline in Southport. Her dedication and commitment to helping others has left a lasting impact on the Trinity community, and the school is grateful for all that Sandra has done to make it a better place.

Sandra's impact will be felt for years to come. The college community are grateful for her many years of service and wish her all the very best in her well-deserved retirement. May this new chapter in Sandra's life bring her much joy, relaxation, and fulfillment.

Sandra's faithful and conscientious service to her Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through her service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognized through this award.

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

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