

December 2023

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Michael Paech

**For service to Lutheran education
1982 – 2023**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Michael Paech to Lutheran education for 42 years.

In 1982, Michael embarked on his journey in Lutheran education, taking on a teaching role at Hermannsburg Lutheran School in the Northern Territory. Teaching Maths, Literacy, and Christian Studies to a diverse range of students aged 4 to 14, he traversed vast distances to reach families in remote areas.

Returning to South Australia in 1986, Michael joined Redeemer Lutheran School Nuriootpa, dedicating six years to teaching Year 4. In 1992, he assumed the role of Principal at Waikerie Lutheran Primary School, teaching in the Year 6/7 classroom and later taking on PE responsibilities until 1997.

In 1998, Michael became the Principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Para Vista, a position he held until 2011. Transitioning to Principal of St John's Lutheran School Highgate in 2012, he played a pivotal role in the merger with Concordia College in 2015, serving as the Assistant Head of College in 2021.

Michael spearheaded growth at St John's Campus, overseeing the expansion of the Early Learning Centre and leading two major building programs for state-of-the-art learning environments. His commitment to quality education resulted in successful IB Evaluations, innovative literacy teaching approaches, and a 1:1 iPad program.

During his tenure, Michael fostered a meaningful partnership between St John's and Siassi in Papua New Guinea. Through visits, cultural exchanges, and professional learning programs, he nurtured relationships that exemplified servanthood and fellowship.

Michael's leadership at St John's Campus embodied servant leadership, focusing on collaboration and empowerment among staff. His dedication is evident in the numerous teachers who advanced to leadership roles, both within Lutheran schools and the Lutheran Education SA, NT & WA, where he served as the Chair from 2006 to 2015. Never seeking personal praise, Michael tirelessly worked to create a community committed to the well-being and development of the students under their care.

His faithful, caring and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran schools, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this Award.

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

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