

December 2020

**LEA SERVICE AWARD**

*Ruth Sparkes*

**For services to Lutheran schooling  
1996 – 2020**

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

Ruth commenced at Good News in 1996 and quickly established herself as a caring and compassionate educator. Ruth has always connected deeply with the children in her care and helped them to progress academically, socially and emotionally. Whenever a student required an extra-measure of support and understanding, Ruth walked alongside so they could experience success and build confidence. Challenging students were regularly transformed in Ruth's classes because of the positive experience she provided.

Ruth has also been committed to professional development and ensured she kept up with contemporary practices and approaches. A key figure on many curriculum teams, Ruth has willingly served within our community to grow staff and programs, as well as assisted at many functions and events in whichever way was needed.

As a committed Christian, Ruth's servant heart and love for our Lord has always been evident and shared with staff, students and families. She has modelled a Christian lifestyle, been a member of our pastoral care committee and sought to impart Christian values and ethics. Ruth will most definitely be missed for the positivity she regularly brings into the workspace.

At the close of 25 years of teaching Ruth enters retirement with the great thanks and appreciation of the Good News community.

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

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

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