TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Statement by Minister for Education and Training

MR A.J. CARPENTER (Willagee - Minister for Education and Training) [12.16 pm]: In May last year, the Premier announced a brand new initiative for Western Australia - the $25 000 Teacher of the Year Award. This initiative was developed to acknowledge and reward the outstanding achievements of government schoolteachers and TAFEWA lecturers across Western Australia.

During November and December last year, the first round of nominations for the 2004 Teacher of the Year commenced. Parents, students, industry and colleagues nominated government teachers and lecturers across the State for their excellent efforts to improve the educational outcomes of students. These teachers and lecturers also contributed outstanding initiatives to educate, motivate and encourage other teachers and educators, as well as potential teachers and educators.

The awards program will continue during 2004 with two more rounds for TAFEWA college lecturers and three more rounds for government primary and secondary schoolteachers. All term and semester winners progress to the finals, when one outstanding teacher or lecturer from a government school or TAFEWA college will be chosen as the 2004 Premier’s Teacher of the Year, with a prize of $25 000.

I am pleased to announce today the first round winners - 18 educators who will each receive $1 000. The round one winners are Barbara Jeremic from Spencer Park Primary School; Gillian Lane from Glen Huon Primary School; Megan Pantall from Beaconsfield Primary School; Tamara Kerr from Warnbro Community High School; Phillip Epps from Northampton District High School; Jennifer Shearing from Bruce Rock District High School - junior primary; Amy Palmer from Merredin Senior High School; Dianne Ruffell from Katanning Primary School; Linda Luff from Katanning Senior High School; Norman Paini from Morley Senior High School; Chloe Pryce from Boyup Brook District High School - primary; Scott Cameron from Margaret River Senior High School; Kylie Godfrey from Mt Hawthorn Senior Primary School; Agnelo D’Souza from Woodvale Senior High School; Samuel Farmer from Perth; Brian Jenkins from Fremantle; Sharon Ross from Northam; and Margaret Rhodes from Bunbury.

Nominations are now open for the next round of the awards. The closing date for nominations for government primary and secondary schoolteachers for term 1 of 2004 is Friday, 26 March 2004 and the closing date for nominations for TAFEWA lecturers for semester 1 of 2004 is Friday, 28 May 2004. Nomination forms are available at government schools and TAFEWA campuses and also online. I urge all Western Australians to be part of this important initiative.