

WA EDUCATION AWARDS

Statement by Member for Southern River

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [12.54 pm]: I rise to speak briefly about three outstanding educators who serve my community in the electorate of Southern River. These three people are among the 42 finalists for the prestigious WA Education Awards this year. The first is Mr Ted Nastasi, who is the long-term principal of Caladenia Primary School in Canning Vale. Under his leadership, this school of around 800 students is a place where students know they are loved and valued, and this provides an environment in which they all can flourish and give of their very best. By modelling a real love and care for students and his staff, the school has become a most sought-after school in Canning Vale. The second is Mrs Everal Pearce, principal of Southern River College. A former student of the school when it was still known as Gosnells Senior High School, she took up her position as principal in 2011 and has provided outstanding leadership to the school. Although the school still faces some challenges given the demographic from which it draws its student population, Mrs Pearce has established links with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, Toll Group, Curtin University and Engineering WA—to name just a few—with the result that a number of students have chosen to attend the school even though they are not from within the catchment zone of the school. Finally, I mention Anita Piccioni, a first-year teacher at Canning Vale College. Her dedication, commitment and professionalism have caught the eye of the school community—so much so that she is now a finalist for the Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. These three people are among the many teachers and support staff that give our schools such a good reputation. I salute you all.