

Statement for Senate Estimates – AITSL CEO

Good Evening Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this short statement tonight, which I will arrange to get to Hansard staff tomorrow.

This coming Friday – October 30 – is World Teachers’ Day, and AITSL is leading a national campaign focused on the bright future of teaching. There are details on how to get involved on our website – www.aitsl.edu.au/wtd.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of Australia’s 330,000 plus teachers and to encourage members of the community to join with me in thanking our teachers.

2020 has been a year unlike any other and our teachers have demonstrated incredible flexibility and resilience. For Australia, the year has seen fires, floods, drought and of course COVID-19. Many of our teachers and principals have also had to adapt from in-class to remote teaching within an extremely short period, their agility and speed to adopt and adapt technology to suit learners’ needs has been marvellous.

Many teachers and leaders in government, independent and catholic primary and secondary schools, and early childhood settings across the nation, have shone brightly during 2020. Take ██████████, a teacher at ██████████ in Tasmania, and who AITSL profiled with our resources to support schools through challenging times. ██████████ led work in his school to quickly adapt lessons online, leveraging technology to ensure a smooth transition to remote learning.

Many parents too have reported gaining an even deeper understanding of the incredible work undertaken by our teachers. It would be remiss of me not to also acknowledge here the incredible work of parents and other care givers in supporting the education of Australia’s children during remote learning.

Whether it has been during periods of bushfire or flood, Australia’s teachers have always been at the front line of their community. And our teachers will continue to play a pivotal role as we recover and continue to exit from the COVID-19 emergency.

On behalf of AITSL I commend teachers and school leaders for a job well done, and on Friday, World Teachers' Day, I encourage everyone to please take time to thank our amazing teachers across Australia.

Thank you, Senators.