



## 2018 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING POSITIVE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

### NOMINATION - Parent Group

As the President of the St Joseph's School (SJS) Kununurra P&F, I'm proud to nominate the P&F for the Parent Group award for this year's P&F federation of WA 2018 Awards of excellence.

Having experienced my children attending Catholic Schools for the past 18 years (16 of which were in Perth) I am yet to find a more collaborative group of parents and school staff that SJS Kununurra. The best example of this collaboration is the Annual Quiz night that is traditionally held on or around St Patrick's Day, as is the theme for the event. After celebrating its 50th year in 2017, St Joseph's School is one of Kununurra's oldest most loved institutions and the St Patricks day Quiz night is one of the longest standing calendar events in town, going back 16 years.

In preparation for the evening, P&F members and School staff, including the Principal, Vice Principal teachers and EA's attend weekly meetings for over 6 weeks. At the meeting, sponsorship from local business was coordinated as well as shire and event approvals, advertising, ticket sales, hall seating, decorations etc.

This year over 320 attendees for the local community attended the evening that raised over \$16,000. This will be the lion's share of the P&F funds for the year.

St Joseph's School vision statement is "Inspired by Mary Mackillop we strive to achieve excellence in education and pastoral care, foster well-being, develop strong values and include all cultures and community members". School policy is to make accessible a Catholic education to the whole community and with the town of Kununurra having a low socio economic demographic, school fees only contribute 3% of the annual school income. With limited Catholic Education and State funding, SJS relies on P&F support for what would be normally be considered as basic resources such as a books, pre-primary play equipment, class room refrigerators (to keep kid's lunches foodsafe in the stifling heat of the East Kimberley.

Requests for funding is a formal process where teachers are required to write to the Principal who presents the requests to the P&F. Allocation of funds by the P&F is the point of much discussion and deliberation is backed by historical funding data for each year group. Recent success in P&F funding has been a focus for 3 years on the pre-primary where the construction of a new playground and improved facilities has resulted in a waiting list for pre-primary places and the possibility of a second steam. This will ensure that going forward in the future, student numbers are maintained, which is essential for the school to remain viable

The SJS annual Quiz night is seen as an excellent networking opportunity for not only the parents and SJS staff but also the event maintains the positive reputation of St Joseph's School as one of the oldest and most loved institutions in the town of Kununurra.