

Honorary Federal Life Membership Citation for Robert Hoff

Robert Hoff has given sustained and outstanding service to the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA), and education in general, for nearly 50 years. Robert joined IPSHA in 1985 as the Principal of Trinity Lutheran Primary School on the Gold Coast, having already been the Principal of St Paul's Lutheran School in Adelaide for 10 years. He was then appointed as the Principal of Immanuel Primary School in South Australia, where he has led the school with distinction for the past 21 years.

Robert has played a prominent role in IPSHA at both a state and national level. He was elected to the position of Federal Secretary for the 1996 – 1998 biennium, before being voted as the Federal President-Elect for 1998 – 2000. He then served as the Association's Federal President from 2000 – 2002, and as Immediate Past President from 2002 – 2006, a total of 10 years' service on the Federal Executive.

Nationally, Robert has represented IPSHA on the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) NAC and the Principals' Australia Institute (PAI – formally APAPDC). He was the South Australian representative on the APPA NAC from 2002 – 2011 and was also a member of the Australian Principals Associations' Professional Development Council (now PAI) from 2002 – 2009, being voted in as the Deputy Chair of APAPDC from 2006 – 2009. In 2013, Robert was recognised for his service to PAI by being presented with the John Laing Professional Development Award. The following year he was acknowledged for his outstanding service to primary education in Australia with the award of APPA Life Membership.

Coupled with his extraordinary contribution to IPSHA and independent education nationally, Robert has been an active and significant contributor to the SA Branch of IPSHA and the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia (AISSA). He served as President-Elect of the Branch from 2012 – 2014 and was the State Branch President from 2014 – 2016. He has provided wise counsel and advice as the Immediate Past President for the past two years. This means his contribution to executives at both a state and national level has spanned some 16 years. In recognition of his service to IPSHA he was made a Fellow of the Association in 2006.

In 2008, Robert was presented with the Noel Volk Excellence Award for recognition of his outstanding work to AISSA and primary education in the independent sector. The Australian Council for Educational Leaders recognised his service to independent school over such a significant time by awarding him an ACEL Fellowship in 2014.

This citation does not even list Robert's amazing contribution to Lutheran education, where he has been a national adviser, leader and organiser for over 40 years.

Robert has left a lasting legacy to IPSHA and independent education in this country. Whilst being the Principal of three schools for over 45 years, Robert has given generously of his time, expertise and experience to involve himself in the wider educational community. He is a passionate educator and leader who can look back on a distinguished career with great pride and a genuine sense of accomplishment. He has promoted the benefits of IPSHA membership to new members, and has fostered strong collegiality and fellowship in both the Branches of which he has been an active member.

The Association's highest award, that of Honorary Federal Life Membership was instituted to recognise Members who have given outstanding and exceptional service to IPSHA as a member of the Federal Board and within their State Branch. It would be fair to say Robert's contribution on the national and state scene has been unparalleled in IPSHA's 66 year history. It is fitting that he be recognised for that contribution with the award of Honorary Federal Life Membership, a view shared unanimously by his colleagues in the SA Branch.

David Hine