



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release

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HIGH CALIBRE GRADUATES OFFER SKILLS IN DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS

Sally Pannifex from Cooks Hill this week completed the first stage of her *Teach for Australia* training and will soon be making a difference at Katherine High School, Katherine, in the Northern Territory.

Teach for Australia gives high calibre graduates from disciplines such as science and mathematics the opportunity to start their career in education, by offering a combination of university study and employment-based teacher education.

The graduates complete a six week intensive training program at the University of Melbourne, receive a two-year supported placement in disadvantaged secondary schools, and at the same time complete their Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching.

Sharon Grierson MP, Federal Member for Newcastle said Ms Pannifex is to be congratulated on her decision to pursue a teaching career and for her steadfast commitment to helping disadvantaged Australian kids get a great education.

"Sally is to be commended for completing the initial training of the Teach for Australia program and for her commitment to students in the Northern Territory," Ms Grierson said.

"Through Teach for Australia we're giving some of Australia's brightest graduates the chance to make a real difference in the lives of students who may be struggling because of their social circumstances."

The *Teach for Australia* graduates will this year be placed in schools in Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, and for the first time, the Northern Territory, beginning their two year placements in classrooms on day one, of term one this year.

Minister for School Education Peter Garrett also this week announced \$6.45 million to fund a fourth intake of the Teach for Australia program, for placement of up to 50 new associates in schools during 2013 -2014.

The Federal Government has committed \$550 million to the Smarter Schools - Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership, which includes funding for Teach for Australia, one strategy to enable new pathways into teaching.

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