



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

23 February 2005

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWCASTLE'S QUALITY SCHOOL!

Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle, has congratulated Cameron Park School, recipient of a \$20,000 prize for Outstanding National Achievement in School Improvement at the 2004 National Awards for Quality Schooling.

The award was presented at Parliament House last Thursday, with Cameron Park School represented by its Principal, Ellen Bax, and Assistant Principals, Lenore Hanney and Lorraine Stallard.

Cameron Park School has 30 students with severe multiple disabilities, and it was awarded for its innovative curriculum which maximises access and participation by this group of children. The curriculum includes a new way of reporting student progress to parents which facilitates better communication between the school and parents, and importantly between parents and their children.

"Good, open communication between teachers, parents and students is vital in any school – and even more so in special needs schools such as Cameron Park," Ms Grierson said.

"As a former school principal, I understand the enormous challenges faced every day by our schools," she said. "This award to Cameron Park School will encourage continuous learning by our schools in their quest for the high standards already enjoyed throughout Newcastle."

"It is wonderful that Newcastle's outstanding and dedicated educators have been recognised in this way," Ms Grierson said.

"It is also pleasing that, as a public school, Cameron Park has been recognised for its achievements," Ms Grierson said. "This just shows the outstanding contribution made by the public school system in giving our children the best possible start in their lives."

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PICTURES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

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