**Media Release**

**Catholic Education celebrates its 100th**

**Highly Accomplished Lead Teacher recipient**

**Adelaide, 12 November 2024**: Ten years ago, a unique cross-sector initiative between

Catholic, public and independent schools in South Australia was established to certify

teachers as Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers (HALT).

Fast forward to November 2024 and Catholic Education SA (CESA) is delighted to announce

its 100th certified HALT teacher; Penny Bateman, from Xavier College, Gawler Belt campus.

Penny who holds the position of English Curriculum Leader began her teaching career in

2021 and started her HALT certification this year. Receiving HALT certification means that

Penny will now be able to mentor colleagues in the process and provide expert guidance on

evidence-based teaching practices while fostering professional growth within her

department.

The South Australian Teacher Certification Committee (SATCC) oversees the National

Certification in SA, acknowledging educators who have demonstrated exceptional practice.

The certification requires individuals to deeply examine their own practice, foster the growth

of knowledge and skills amongst colleagues, and successfully pass a stringent assessment

process. Following certification CESA’s HALT teachers receive an annual allowance for

their work in supporting colleagues to create greater student outcomes.

In late September the SATCC celebrated the 10th anniversary of HALT with a ceremony at

the Adelaide Oval hosted by Danny Pinchas, General Manager Teacher Quality at the

Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and attended by Erin

Thompson MP and Dr Neil McGoran, Executive Director of CESA.

33 Catholic school educators were amongst those receiving their HALT certification for the

first time or renewing their status at the ceremony.

Belinda Radcliffe, CESA representative on the SATCC said: "To have reached the

milestone of 100 highly accomplished and lead teachers within Catholic schools is a huge

achievement and brings us closer to our target of having a certified HALT teacher in every

school.

“This is not just a celebration of teacher quality in South Australia, but a testament to a decade

of fostering excellence in our classrooms.

"We salute the commitment of all certified teachers to their practice, their students, and the

betterment of the teaching profession over these past ten years.”

Penny Bateman, English Curriculum Leader, Xavier College said:

“In my journey to becoming the 100th Lead Teacher I became a learner once more. The

process prompted me to acknowledge my own strengths and weaknesses and take charge

of my own professional development. I can honestly say that I am a better faculty leader and

a better teacher after going through this process. I love being an educator and my personal

philosophy is that staff and students alike should approach the learning process with good

humour and a sense of rigor.”

-ENDS-

Image attached L-R: Penny Bateman, 100th HALT recipient and Tamika Canala, 98th HALT

recipient, both teachers at Xavier College, Adelaide.

There are 101 Catholic schools in South Australia. For more information visit:

<https://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/>

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