

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AWARD

Eric Pearson was President of the NSW Teachers Federation from 1974 to 1975. He was also President of the Australian Teachers Federation. He commenced his teaching career in small country schools as a two year trained teacher, prior to active service in New Guinea and Borneo during World War 2. He subsequently returned to teaching and further study, and received a PHD from London University. He had a distinguished teaching and lecturing career, and was head of the department of Education at Sydney Teachers College.

Originally called the Eric Pearson Memorial Travel Grant, the award was set up in memory of Eric Pearson, who died on June 8, 1977. The first award was made in 1980 to Gus Plater, a teacher and activist from Armidale Teachers Association.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD

1980	Gus Plater	The social impact of microprocessor technology - its impact on schools and unions.
1981	Jim Gallagher	Teacher education programs to meet the needs of indigenous people of Canada and US
1982	Pam Allen	Impact of equal opportunity legislation for women and girls in education in USA and Canada
1983	Ross Rinehart	Teacher stress and methods of control in USA and Canada
1984	Richard Walsham	Peace education in Europe
1985	David Bell	Trade union education in Europe
1986	Sally Edsall	Role of teacher-librarians and function of school libraries in USA
1987	Phil ONeill	Privatisation of public education in western Europe
1988	Gary Rogers	Rural education issues in USA
1989	Kathleen Warren	Effect of the Education reform Act on Higher Education in Britain
1990	Anthea Scholes	Impact of technology on the secondary curriculum and relationship of secondary education to other agencies in Japan, West Germany and Sweden
1991	Denis Fitzgerald	Collapse of the Conservative model of education in Britain
1992	Noel McManus	Performance appraisal and management methods and contribution to teacher satisfaction/dissatisfaction
1993	Vivienne White	Restructuring and implications for teachers' work
1994	Patricia Simpson	Devolution, schools and collective bargaining
1995	Mary Fogarty	Impact of the national curriculum, assessment and testing on teacher work - Australia, USA and UK
1996	Camilla Couch	Privatisation and competitive tendering in further education in the UK
1997	Frank Barnes	Lesbian, gay and bisexual teachers' and students' issues in western Europe, UK and US
1998	John Dixon	Use of technology in enhancing union campaigning
1999	Gary Zadkovich	Union structures
2000	Karen Burnet	Teacher unions and curriculum development in England, Scotland, Canada and US
2001	Giselle Olliver	Organisation of education in NSW

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any currently financial member of the Teachers Federation.

NUMBER OF AWARDS

One award will usually be made each year. In some circumstances, the committee may recommend no award, or two awards in a given year.

VALUE OF THE GRANT AND MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS

The maximum amount in 2003 is \$ 15 000. This will be reviewed the Committee each year prior to the call for submissions for the following year, and a recommendation made to Executive. This amount is for use in travel and accommodation. (See separate section on salaries)

The successful applicant will submit a preliminary budget to the General Secretary prior to making arrangements and money will be advanced at suitable times to facilitate arrangements. At no time will the recipient be out of pocket themselves.

On completion of the study, a financial reconciliation will be made.

Recipients of the Award should ensure receipts are kept and provided to Federation.

The financial arrangements are subject to the review of the General Secretary, and, if necessary, Executive, of the Federation.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Federation's travel co-ordinator can assist with making travel and accommodation bookings where required. Alternatively, the recipient may make their own arrangements. Receipts must then be provided to Federation.

PERIOD OF AWARD

The maximum period for the Award is 30 working days. Any private travel arrangements made in conjunction with the Award are the responsibility of the recipient. For insurance and other purposes it is necessary that federation is aware of the dates for which the Award is in operation.

CLOSING DATE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AWARD

Usually applications will close in mid to late September each year. An announcement will be made at October Council, or if necessary, November Council.

REPORTS

The recipient will document the results of their study and lodge them with Federation for the use of the Federation. Depending on circumstances, there may also be a requirement to provide a written report to the Department of Education and Training.

The recipient is required to give an oral report to Annual Conference, as well as contribute article/s as appropriate to Education.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Only in the most exceptional circumstances will late applications be accepted. The decision will rest with the General Secretary.

POSSIBLE AREAS OF STUDY

The study should look at an area of industrial and professional relevance to the Teachers Federation as a union and/or a group/groups of members.

Current campaigns of interest to the union include:

- Reconciliation
- Privatisation of education
- Government funding of private education providers
- Staffing of schools and colleges
- Salary and status of teachers
- Class sizes, particularly in the early years of schooling
- Teacher workload and stress
- Child protection / rights of teachers and students
- Multiculturalism / racism
- Violence
- Special education and integration issues
- Casualisation of teaching
- Comprehensive versus specialist education
- Equity issues
- Poverty
- Restructuring and reorganisation of education
- School accountability and performance issues
- Assessment, Testing and Reporting
- Specialist areas in education

This list is not exhaustive.

Potential applicants may have other topics of relevance they might wish to study.

CONTACTS

It is the responsibility of the successful applicant to make contact with organisations and individuals in connection with the study. The Teachers Federation can provide a letter of introduction. Depending on the area of study Federation may be able to assist with contacts for the successful applicant after the award has been made.

Members are reminded that they are entitled to make use of the Federation Library services at any stage of development of their application, or after an award has been made.

LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS

Any member who is successful will be fully paid for the duration of the pay. No member will receive an amount in pay greater than that which they would normally receive.

Where the award is made to a Federation Officer, the Officer shall be granted leave with pay for the period of the study.

Where the member is employed by another employer (eg DET, Board of Studies, AMES, Corrective Services etc), Federation will seek Leave with Pay for the successful applicant. If full pay is not granted by the employer, Federation will make up the loss of pay, including any loss due to pro-rata vacation pay arrangements. This is in addition to the award amount.

Employees in schools are referred to the section of the Teachers Handbook pertaining to Study Leave With pay to Accept a Competitive Award (Section 5.12.2.1)

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CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING APPLICATIONS

1. Relevance and benefit to the union, that is, the contribution that the intended study may make to the knowledge and understanding of members with respect to industrial and professionally relevant issues. It is not intended that the award be for the benefit solely of the person undertaking the study, for example, to assist that person with completion of courses of study.
2. Clarity of the proposal, using the proforma application. There must be a reasoned advocacy for the work of the study.
3. The background of the applicant as a committed union member.