



PHYSICAL EDUCATION
NEW ZEALAND
TE AO KORI AOTEAROA

2019

AWARDS CONFERENCE



The Outstanding Physical Education Teacher Award is for a teacher in early childhood, primary, secondary or tertiary settings who has been in the role for more than 5 years in teaching (as at 31 December 2018) has made a significant contribution to the Physical Education of children and young people in New Zealand.

Gus is an exceptional physical educator, who is renowned for his mentorship. As a sports coach, a senior member of staff, a HOD for 10 years, a leader for other school middle leaders, a dean, and now Kāhui Ako for the region; he is respected and sought for his expertise in leading others. His core strengths are in integrity, professionalism and positivity. He is exceptionally creative when it comes to curriculum design and embraces criticality. He is incredibly humble and leads with the philosophy “know yourself, be yourself and back yourself” and uses this to inspire others in lifelong physical activity and well-being. Gus received letters of support for his nomination from his principal, fellow colleagues, current staff, the HOD he mentored, sports

directors and other schools in the region. One person commented, “His reach in empowering young people to make good choices about their lives cannot be measured. His impact on the community is ongoing”. In 2008, Gus led a local PENZ cluster in this remote area, making sure that the region had the support they deserved. Over a 5-year period, he led the mahi on local workshops, mentoring new teachers, and connecting the region in sharing best practice. This nominee is not only a well-known and respected teacher, but a nationally regarded coach. Often opponents of his teams would comment to the calibre of the students – not only the tactical talent of the players, but the sportspersonship and culture he would foster.