

CRITERIA 1: Professional Outstanding Achievement: such as leadership in professional associations, personal development or peer recognition in chosen career.

Ally Alumni commenced her Bachelor of Communication in 1998 at USQ to gain a cross section of skills across mediums before deciding which avenue to take after graduation. She graduated with First Class Honours in 2001. At this time, she was not sure which career path she wanted to follow and to broaden her horizons went back-packing around the world. Throughout her time travelling, she visited some of the world's most underprivileged children in Zimbabwe which provided a different outlook on life.

After her travelling experiences, Ally returned to Australia determined to make a difference in the lives of children and studied a Graduate Diploma of Learning and Teaching.

After her Grad Dip, Ally taught in Flexi-Schools throughout Australia, wanting to reach out and encourage disadvantaged children in Australia. After 6 years teaching in some of the most challenging environments, Ally was awarded the Australian Secondary Teacher of the Year Award.

Ally was honoured by the Award and continued to work in Flexi-Schools for another year before deciding to utilise her communication degree and research skills to work for Education Australia as the Manager of Marketing and Communication where she still works today. As part of her role, she travels throughout Australia speaking with teachers who are managing students with learning difficulties.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an example of a written statement addressing the selection criteria in no more than 500 words per criteria. Ally Alumni is not based on a real person and the associated information is not factual and does not exist.

RITERIA 2: Industry, Academic or Research Achievement: such as significant contribution in a research context or by peer recognition in an academic context.

Throughout her teaching experience Ally wrote a number of articles, published in the *Education Australia Magazine* about improving student retention in lower socio-economic environments. She also wrote a practical handbook, entitled 'Making the difference: a practical approach for teachers with students & learning difficulties' which focused on strategies to manage students with such difficulties as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism.

She has been interviewed and quoted on television and radio programs as having some experience and knowledge in Student retention and managing students with learning difficulties. She has also been asked to speak at several Universities throughout Australia as well as Professional Development Seminars relating to these areas.

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CRITERIA 3: Contribution to the Community: such as volunteering service in areas of health care, poverty, community service, or supporting community projects in areas of arts, education, sport and literacy or overcoming very significant personal adversity.

Throughout her teaching experience, Ally worked in very challenging environments to support students with special needs and those considered disadvantaged. She ran summer camps each year in an attempt to motivate, inspire and enthuse students raised in difficult circumstances and/or those having trouble assimilating to normal environments due to learning difficulties and other social disorders.

Ally has also returned several times to Zimbabwe and Ethiopia on Youth Outreach Missions that were designed to input into the lives of those less fortunate. She worked with underprivileged and those in poverty on these trips.

She has taken part and been a team leader in Schoolyard Blitz programs run by local churches at various State Schools in NSW to voluntarily tidy, repair and renovate schools.

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