



# World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching – where the future begins

## The power of building relationships

Teaching has given Erin Dunn the opportunity to build relationships and learn new perspectives at the Australian International Islamic College.

"I have a double degree with child and family studies (social work) but chose teaching for the relationships you make with students," Erin said.

"No matter what is happening in your own life, those children are there every day to learn and grow with you.

"The challenging curriculum and personalities that make the class erupt with laughter is an instant happiness-inducing combination."

Alongside teaching distance education and relief teaching, Erin has worked with numerous grades ranging from lower primary up to Year 6.

"My school is based around the Islam faith and as someone that does not follow that faith, it has been really exciting to learn about their perspectives," Erin said.

"It is also interesting for the students to see how other people in the world interpret things.

"It's a mutual respect for people of their personal beliefs that has helped us grow closer as a class.

"It's great to try different areas of education, as there is so much to experience and learn from students in Queensland, let alone Australia."

Erin believes there are many possibilities out there for the future of teaching and what it might look like.

"The future of teaching is so exciting," she said.

"More collaborations with schools around the world would be an awesome way for students to connect with other learners.

"The use of technology is also quite an ever-changing area that is exciting to engage our students and create curiosity every day."

Accompanying a group of students to their first school camp is one of Erin's favourite moments from her 6 years of teaching.

"Most of my students come from big families," she said.

"For them, a normal weekend is hanging out at a local park, so taking them to camp and letting them experience brand new challenges and adventures was like magic.

"They were really excited and it felt very special to be the one to organise and accompany them.

"This career will really open a new space in your heart for learning and teaching.

"You have a large influence on the future generation, and you are the example to show these students what society could be.

"Students not only absorb everything they learn, they also take in the teacher's positivity, excitement for the future and showing compassion and kindness in everyday acts."

**Erin Dunn**  
**Australian International Islamic College**  
**Durack**