

TEACHER WHO MADE STATE HISTORY ALSO AN AWARD FINALIST

A key player in Queensland education history, who witnessed the abandonment of grammar in English teaching and then played a role in its revival, is a finalist in state teaching awards.

Dr Rod Campbell, who has co-authored 17 textbooks in grammar instruction and literacy education – his latest a leading university text in teacher education – has been nominated for an Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Award.

Dr Campbell was a member of the Queensland Teachers' Union State Council in the late 1960s and early 1970s when it successfully pushed for equal pay for female teachers.

He was also the Secretary of the Queensland Special Education Association and a founding member of the national body. **He was also a member of the National Council of the Australian Literacy Educators Association for a decade.**

More than 40 years later, Dr Campbell is a national and international expert in grammar instruction and literacy education and has taught countless students and teachers across primary, secondary and special schools, and in early childhood and higher education settings.

He said that when he left school, about 10 per cent of people needed writing as central to their job.

“Now that figure is closer to 80 per cent – you can't earn more than \$50,000 a year unless you have good oral and written communication skills,” Dr Campbell said.

Dr Campbell was working in the 1970s when the explicit teaching of grammar was abandoned in schools, and knew as a teacher educator in the mid 1980s that grammar had to make a comeback. He also knew how difficult it was to teach.

“So I set out to develop learning strategies to teach it,” he said.

“I watched four excellent teachers as part of my doctoral studies.

“What I have figured out now is a way that gives teachers background knowledge so that they can go further into traditional grammar, or can work with systemic functional grammar – also called functional grammar. My strategies support English teaching anywhere in the world.” **His 2014 handbook for teaching grammar is now used in many schools.**

He continues to provide curriculum leadership, including at Aspley East State School, where literacy outcomes have improved, according to Dr Campbell, because of the hard work of the school's administration team and teachers, some of whom he is mentoring.

QCT Director John Ryan thanked Dr Campbell for the significant contribution he had made to Queensland education across a number of fields.

The QCT award recipients will be announced on 30 October, on the day Australia celebrates World Teachers' Day, at a ceremony at QUT's Room Three Sixty.