

# News Release

148 Murray Street, Gawler, S.A., 5118.  
Phone (08) 85 222 878  
Fax: (08) 85 231 392



# Tony Piccolo MP

State Member for Light  
Member,  
Economics & Finance Committee  
National Convenor,  
Australia – Italia MP Forum

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## Aaron is an Inspiration

**St Brigid's Primary school teacher Aaron Probeta is one of 51 South Australian teachers to be named a finalist in the National Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2009.**

Light MP Tony Piccolo said the prime purpose of the awards were designed to celebrate the achievements of inspirational and excellent teachers, as well as encouraging community understanding that teachers have an important and direct impact on our entire education system.

Mr Piccolo said the Awards received over 1200 nominations nationwide with 569 teachers reaching the finalist stage.

“Aaron is clearly a very good teacher who is able to relate to his students and engage them in their learning” said Mr Piccolo.

The English trained teacher has been at St Brigids for five years and currently teaches combined years 3 and 4 class.

Aaron, who has been teaching for ten years, obtained his teaching qualifications at the highly regarded Roehampton Institute in London and has also a degree in mathematics.

Prior to migrating to Australia, Aaron taught at Hitherfield Primary School in Streatham, England.

Born in Kent, England, Aaron met his Adelaide born wife Rachel while she was holidaying in England. Also a teacher, Rachel teaches at the Catherine McCauley School, Craigmore.

Aaron says Australian schools place greater focus on physical education and that his last school had no oval or grassed area for the children to play on.

Aaron loves being a teacher and says the “kids at St Brigids are wonderful” and it is a joy to be there, as there is a “strong sense of collegiality” amongst the staff.

Aaron said children in Australia are greater “independent learners” and undertake a lot more project work than they do in England.

Surprised and humbled by the nomination, Aaron said it was a great honour to be nominated and he is lucky to have a great job and school to work for.

Mr Piccolo said he understood that finalists are now eligible to progress through to the next phase of the awards, at the state and territory awards level in November 2009 (60 teachers), and then of these, 10 teachers will receive national awards next year.