**Zoe Smith, Graceville State School**

Transcript

Zoe Smith began teaching in 1995 and began her 24-year journey as a school leader in rural and small school settings in Central Queensland, where she came to appreciate the importance of individual student needs and community connection. She became principal of Graceville State School in 2016, connecting research to practice and transforming the school and community.

Her drive, passion and deep moral purpose for improving student learning sits behind her engagement as a life long learner.  She has engaged deeply in reflective practice, study and research to make herself the best possible leader of learning in the interest of the children and communities that she serves.

Each school and community she has served has required a unique approach prompting Zoe’s strive for continual learning backed by engagement in research and expertise in teaching and learning through inquiry. She is acknowledged and respected by her peers, who regularly seek her advice and guidance, and credits each unique leadership role for the evolution of who she is as a leader.