NSW TEACHERS RECOGNISED ON WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY

Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth has applauded the outstanding contribution made by teachers in New South Wales on today’s World Teachers’ Day.

“Today is an opportunity to congratulate our teachers on the wonderful contribution they make to our society,” said Ms Firth.

“In my first weeks as Minister I have been deeply impressed by the dedication, understanding and innovation our teachers bring to their work.

“The benefit to students of their expertise and commitment has been demonstrated repeatedly, with test after test showing our NSW students performing second to none in Australia and among the best in the world.

“In the first-ever national literacy and numeracy tests, our students scored well above the Australian average in every subject and for every year group tested.

“Those results come on top of a recent OECD study that ranked our 15 year olds among the best in the world for reading, maths and science.

“These outcomes are a magnificent endorsement of our teachers and principals, parents and students, as well as of the quality of our curriculum.

“The Rees Government is committed to meeting the dedication of teachers to continue delivering the best possible education opportunities for students.

“We are investing a record $11.8 billion in school education and vocational training in 2008-09, an increase of $614 million on the previous financial year.

“I heartily congratulate all our teachers for their efforts, and look forward to continuing to work closely with them and their school communities.”

World Teachers’ Day was inaugurated by UNESCO in 1993 as an international opportunity to recognise the vital contribution teachers make to education and development.