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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

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Andrews, H.A. (2006). *Awards and recognition for exceptional teachers: K-12 and community college programs in the U.S.A., Canada and other countries*. Ottawa, IL: Matilda Press.

Recognition of quality teachers and teaching is attracting increasing attention from the media, members of the teaching profession and politicians at both State and Federal levels. Current debate, involving major Australian political parties, centres on the provision of financial incentives for quality teachers, but the methods for identifying such teachers are vague.

The need for genuine recognition of quality teachers is highlighted by the results of recent research in Western Australia, which examined the well-being of police, nurses and teachers. The study found that over half the teachers surveyed held unfavourable views about recognition of outstanding work by their employing organisation.

Dr Andrews' book provides substantial "food for thought" with respect to recognition of exceptional teachers. He presents a plethora of examples of recognition schemes, which should inform the current debate in Australia.

Not only should this book be read by teachers, but, probably of greater importance, by teacher employers. Consideration of the examples presented by Dr Andrews and consequent action by education authorities might start to attract and retain more teachers.