

State Award Submission Cover Sheet

Title of submission: Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Students program

School/s: Redbank Plains State High
School _____

District: Moreton East and Moreton West

Region: (See section 4.1.1 of the guidelines for details)

Key contact person:

Name Tracey Gude

Phone number 38142033

Mobile phone number 0434291846 _____

Email _____ address

tgude1@eq.edu.au _____

Principal:

Name _____ Mark

Breckenridge _____

Phone number 3814 2033 _____

Email _____ address

_mbrec2@eq.edu.au _____

Please nominate the Showcase category for your project. Please nominate one category only.
(See section 1.2 of the guidelines for more information)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showcase Award for Excellence in the Early Phase of Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showcase Award for Excellence in the Middle Phase of Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showcase Award for Excellence in the Senior Phase of Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showcase Award for Excellence in Inclusive Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | * Showcase Award for Excellence in Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showcase Award for Excellence in Innovation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showcase Award for Academic Excellence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showcase Award for Excellence in Community or Industry Partnerships |

OPTIONAL multimedia items:

(For further information see guidelines appendix L)

If included, please nominate (✓)

To be supplied on one compact disc with the hard copy. Multimedia items are not required electronically.

- Submission required in hard and electronic copy
- Maximum five pages of submission information and 10 pages of appendices (excludes the cover sheet and project summary)
- Minimum font size of 11 points
- Multimedia material optional

For further details see guidelines section 3 – How to enter.

SIGNATURE/S OF PRINCIPAL/S

Date

To be completed by the Executive Director (Schools) after completion of the checklist:

I support this submission and its entry in the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools 2008. This submission meets the requirements set out in the Executive Director's Checklist.

Signature of Executive Director (Schools)

Date

All submissions remain the intellectual property of the Department of Education, Training and the Arts. If a submission uses material from a source not covered by Department of Education, Training and the Arts licences, permission for use of that material must be sought prior to entry of the submission and written proof of permission must be included in the submission.

State Award Submission Template

Submission overview:

The Pregnant and Parenting Program was established at a district level in 2004 as an ETRF initiative. Its genesis came from a program established at Redbank Plains State High School previously that focused on removing the barriers to learning for pregnant or parenting young people. It promotes educational settings that welcome and support pregnant and parenting students, and establishes a district support system to address the needs of these students. The program encourages and supports students to remain in the educational setting of their choice. Initiatives such as the Pregnant and Parenting Program will ensure support mechanisms are in place that will allow all young people to participate in education and training regardless of their circumstances.

Description

Quality is based on schools' response to and relationship with parents and will be strengthened when they become leaders in innovation. QSE-10

In 2003 Redbank Plains SHS responded to the needs of parents and students and created a new innovative program to assist pregnant students and young parents in leading them to complete their education and support their individual needs as parents.

The program has supported 22 schools with over 179 students fostering and developing relationships *with schools to model appropriate behaviour and promote an environment that is free from all forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment which allows these students to feel accepted, respected and proud of their right to their education.* (Inclusive Education Statement -2005)

“Successfully completing secondary education is a challenge. Achieving this milestone whilst also pregnant or parenting a child presents a raft of challenges”. Mark Breckenridge – Principal Redbank Plains SHS

The program is designed to address the following key goals

1. Increase participation rate of pregnant and parents students in education, training or work
2. Support pregnant and parenting students to complete education to senior level/Certificate or successful transition to work, university or TAFE
3. Promote educational settings that welcome and support pregnant and parenting students
4. Establish whole of district support systems to address the needs of students who are pregnant or parenting
5. Improve service delivery and support for pregnant and parenting students
6. Improve students parenting skills and their ability to balance family and education or work.

1. Increase participation rate of pregnant and parenting students in education, training or work

The leadership skills of the Pregnant & Parenting Program (PPP) District Officers are an important part of working with people who have a common goal of getting our young pregnant or parenting students to return to education, training or work. Working with agencies that work with young people is a must to gain referrals from the wider community. We have experienced over a 20 fold increase in participation rate since 2003.

“Students who complete yr 12 or it's equivalent have better life chances. Increasing the number of our young people who achieve this gives them a “fair go” at life's opportunities and will improve economic performance”. (Former Premier Peter Beattie)

2. Support pregnant and parenting students to complete education to senior level/Certificate 2 or successful transition to work, university or TAFE

Achievements of students along the path to completing school must ensure that they have the foundation for life after they leave school in the complex, diverse and uncertain economic and social environments. This outcome will be assisted if the emphasis is on achieving personal best rather than passing or failing. (QSE-10)

Each school provides a range of flexible pathways and alternatives for learning designed to support the achievements of students. The QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education) caters for pregnant students and young parents in being a flexible program in achieving the 20 credit points needed to graduate. A student's timetable may range from attending school for 6hrs a week studying Literacy and Numeracy or full time depending on the needs and circumstances of the student.

The PPP District Officers lead case management meetings with staff, Student Support Services and other interested parties in developing a study program that is manageable by the student. The PPP District Officers then continue supporting this student to obtain their goals by weekly visits to the school. Building strong relationships with the pregnant and parenting students is vital in assisting students in times of stressful and difficult situations. The PPP District Officers make themselves available for 1:1 sessions to assess and assist with weekly difficulties. Including – school timetable, bullying, doctor/hospital appointments and

encouragement. This helps keep them focused on their educational goals and not be distracted by their personal issues, thus leaving school before they complete their QCE.

Pregnant & Parenting students in Special Education Units that participate in organised workshops or activities lead by the PPP District Officers benefit by having their participation documented in their work programs allowing for positive outcomes in their achievements.

The PPP District Officers can link pregnant & parenting students to other government and community organisations to assist them in overcoming the many barriers pregnant and parenting students face, such as homelessness. This co-ordinated approach prevents students at risk slipping between the responsibilities of different departments.

As a result of this support, students are more equipped to complete their education and remain in contact with essential support services.

“Without this support the female students would mostly simply not be able to maintain or complete their schooling. The P&P Program is undoubtedly promoting an educational setting that welcomes and supports pregnant and parenting students”. Frances Orford – Head of Special Education Services (English as a Second Language) Yeronga SHS

3. Establish whole of district support systems to address the needs of students who are pregnant or parenting

Leadership is about promoting innovation and responding to community need. It is also about promoting learning and state education in the community. Employment of a wider range of professionals will increase the knowledge and expertise available to schools to undertake their social role.(QSE-10)

The (PPP) District Officers regularly attend formal interagency networks including Ipswich, Esk, Goodna and WAYWARD (Brisbane). This attendance allows staff to remain up to date with current local action and interact with agency staff to ensure appropriate and trusted referral for students.

Community collaboration has benefited the program on many occasions. We have had much interest, support and involvement from many local organisations over the 4 yr period. As a result of this the PPP District Officers lead the development of the Pregnant & Parenting Students Volunteer Program. This strong school-community partnership relies on the ongoing support of Springfield Oasis Community and Yeronga Baptist Church.

These local church communities have established a Pregnant and Parenting Students Donation Scheme whereby its members are able to supply necessary baby items on a regular basis. The volunteers deliver these items to the students on the scheduled social gatherings such as afternoon teas, pamper days, craft/referral days and end of year celebrations hosted by the District Officers. These friendly volunteers continue supporting and mentoring the Pregnant & Parenting students once the student has completed their education.

“I would like to give my unequivocal support for the continuation of your program, as pregnant and parenting young people in Ipswich/Moreton Region have limited opportunities to access supports and services that both are targeted at their specific needs.”

Leanne Richardson – Manager Department of Child Safety

4. Improve service delivery and support for pregnant and parenting students

The strong leadership demonstrated by the PPP District Officers assists pregnant and parenting students in leading the way in creating friendships and informal support networks within this support network. Australian Multiculturalism stresses inclusiveness - being together as a young community from 10 different countries the Pregnant & Parenting students are united through their parenting status and admired for each others achievements

Discussing their experiences and showing a determination to succeed in their education and parenting, results in a willingness to teach and learn from each other, improving many students leadership abilities and commitment to future study.

The student/staff conversations lead to improved outcomes for the students. This ongoing consultation allows for better results and retention for future students. Eg. The Me and My Baby Workshop and the Introduction of the “petty cash account” to provide financial assistance when necessary.

“I was able to play a small part in settling up the original model at Redbank Plains SHS some years ago, but I did not think then that the program would prove so successful in changing the lives and educational outcomes of so many young adults.”

Simon Riley – Principal Ipswich SHS

5. Improve students parenting skills and their ability to balance family and education or work

QSE2010 states - For many students the level of individual interpersonal skills is crucial to access work. Students need skills at networking and project management and the ability to organise a flexible life and career.

In the role as PPP District Officers in the Pregnant & Parenting Program it became apparent that these young students needed to be informed on gathering information and obtaining leadership and guidance on being a parent. After many management meetings lead by the PPP District Officer a program was developed with the needs of young pregnant and parenting students in mind. Funds were obtained by Mission Australia and the expertise of Child Health Nurses, Social Workers and other professional personnel volunteered their time from Queensland Health, Young People's Health, Child Protection Unit, Child Safety and Family Planning. The very successful program called 'Me & My Baby Workshop' was created for the pregnant and parenting students. The topics covered in this workshop are as follows-

1. What to expect when you take your baby home from hospital.
2. Crying Baby – How to settle your baby.
3. Common Coughs & Colds – When to call a doctor
4. Attachment – Mother & Baby
5. Safe Relationships – Creating a safe environment for your baby.
6. Secret Women's Business – What is never discussed after giving birth.

(Appendix 1)

The many gatherings lead by the PPP District Officers provide referral opportunities and are an ideal way of encouraging and reinforcing student organisational skills and networking opportunities with ease, pride, trust and enjoyment. Another major benefit is the rewarding experience students have when listening to guest speakers such as Brisbane City Lady Mayoress Lisa Newman, Councillor Les Bryant, Ipswich City Mayor Paul Pisasale and Child Protection Senior Detective Charyse Pond speaking respectfully and encouraging to both young women and men.

Donations totalling to \$4,500 obtained by the PPP District Officers assist in great leadership programs that provide pregnant and parenting students with associated costs of being a student such as- uniforms, books, travel cards and school fees. When financial hardship is identified as a potential barrier to engagement with learning, these funds contribute to the costs of re-engaging/remaining in school.

Financial support has been granted by local community groups including Inala Youth and Family Support Service, Yeronga Baptist, Goodna RSL, Ipswich City Council, Richlands Ward Office, Mayoress Lisa Campbell and Ipswich SHS P&C.

By working as strong leaders within these community partnerships, District Officers are able to address problems and provide assistance in all aspects of personal, health and social wellbeing needs for the students. By alleviating these concerns the students have an improved concentration and are able to allow school staff to focus on education and vocational outcomes.

***“This is the most un-parented generation in history”.* Rob Welford – Education Minister**

6. Promote educational settings that welcome and support P&P students

The PPP District Officers lead the way in ensuring that schools practice and promote Education Queensland Inclusive Policy to retain pregnant and parenting students in education and that all students, staff, parents and caregivers are familiar with this policy. This is done by providing information to students, parents, staff and school communities. Informing staff of policy and good practices by attending whole school staff meetings, Senior Guidance Officer meetings, School Support Staff meetings and speaking publicly whenever possible.

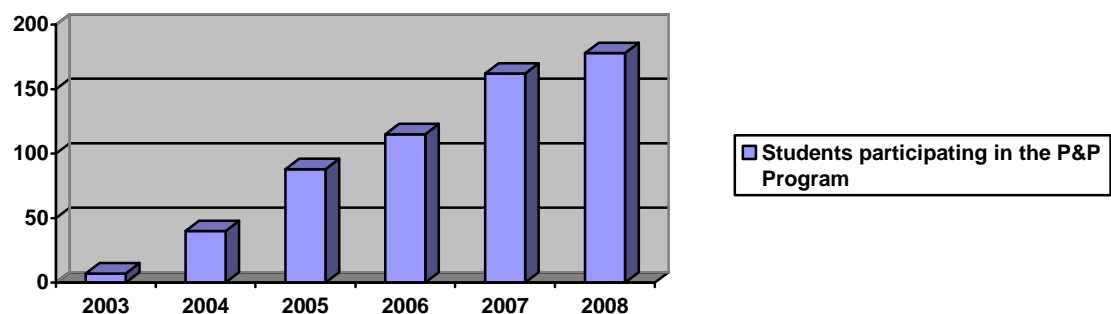
The Pregnant and Parenting Program is easily transferable over 21 Moreton schools and 2 Central schools. All these schools have an Equity Strategy for at-risk groups, of which

Pregnant and Parenting students reside. Within this target group 21 students are English as Second Language (ESL) students. These educational settings are flexible and accommodate differences in individual school approaches. The differing purposes, needs and learning cultures of schools are recognised when supporting these students and schools.

The program is actively promoted via public displays, newsletters and media releases. In addition there are annual mail outs to principals, SBYHN, Guidance Officers and related Government and community organisations.

This model of support is far more sustainable and cost effective per student than other models promoted in Australia. This is due to many factors including

- Students are able to attend school of choice usually closest to home which includes their already established support networks.
- One on one support from the District Officer and immediate referral to support services. Issues are identified earlier and support given before student abandons their education.
- For an annual investment of \$60,000 an overall average of 36 students /year in 21 schools participates or completes their education or training.



As a result of this accumulative data we are able to determine that the Pregnant & Parenting program has a student retention rate of 73.36 %.

Pregnant students and young mothers supported by the Pregnant & Parenting Program that have completed year 12 has increased over 350% since the commencement of the Pregnant & Parenting Program.

These figures reflect the improvement of service delivery and support for Pregnant and Parenting Students.

Nearly all of the girls supported at Yeronga SHS are of a refugee background. They have arrived in Australia recently and sometimes have no family who has survived to help them. Others culturally are rejected by their families and the wider community because of their pregnancy. Without the support of the P&P Program they would be struggling to cope alone. Many have had little prior education in Africa, are only beginning to learn English and about our cultural norms, they frequently understand little about their bodies, the changes that occur in pregnancy or how to best self-care during this crucial period. Likewise they have no knowledge about birth or child rearing. It is a most important service that is provided on this level through Pregnant and Parenting. Arguably, in fact, the most significant input that this service provides at Yeronga is to improve students' parenting skills and their ability to balance family and education or work.

(Frances Orford Yeronga SHS ESL HOD)

Future Vision

Currently the Pregnant and Parenting Program is a local proactive model of support that is leading the way in offering a range of options earlier for students to enable them to remain or re-engage in schooling.

The future vision of the Pregnant and Parenting Program is to lead the way in developing this flexible, innovative and responsive approach to supporting pregnant and parenting students in being transferred successfully to all schools/regions across the country and is socially and educationally inclusive.

Future Goal

To develop a facility that will offer young parents and young pregnant teens more choices and support towards the attainment of their educational goals.

Currently the Pregnant and Parenting Program is consulting with Education Queensland, Challenge Employment, National Childcare Association to establish a Childcare centre on the grounds of Ipswich State High School. The development of this centre will involve many local organisations and community groups such as Challenge Employment who have offered the services of labours and trainees as part of their training program. This facility will house a nursery and toddler room for the use of pregnant students and young parents. Also included is a Well Being Centre that will be utilised by the Pregnant & Parenting students to study, feed their babies, attend parenting workshops and participate in many other activities. This venue will be a training facility for Ipswich SHS students to obtain their Certificate II in Childcare.

This forward thinking in the future of the Pregnant & Parenting Program demonstrates just another example of the leadership qualities it promotes.

Mark Brackenridge – Principal Redbank Plains SHS

Conclusion

Pregnant and Parenting Students have a need for security, consistency, inclusion, social recognition and a sense of belonging. The Pregnant and Parenting Program leads the way with schools that model appropriate behaviour to promote social cohesion, an environment free from all forms discrimination, harassment and a sense of community. This allows pregnant and parenting students to feel accepted, respected and proud of their right to their education

Schools that are dynamic learning organisations such as Redbank Plains SHS, can emphasise learning and state education is leading the way by creating opportunities of leadership in the community.

This innovative leadership program continues to be the only support service of it's kind in Queensland. It has become an integral part of providing quality education across Moreton Region and PPP Officers are sought by from many organisations throughout the State and Country. Redbank Plains SHS remains the leading school in Queensland which is offering the essential support necessary to schools and families to support pregnant and parenting students.

Educational delegates have visited for advice from Western and South Australia The program has also had enquiries from the production unit at Film Australia seeking to publicise this innovative school program

“Now I know I have this support from this program I do not cry when I go to the office, I know I have a right to be here and get my education” Student – Yeronga SHS

Evidence

- Letters of support from various schools and organisations with whom the program has worked are included in the appendix validating the need and worth of this program to pregnant and parenting student and schools alike.
- Qualitative data from students who have been assisted by this program

Other documentation:

- Me and My Baby Workshop Summary
- Powerpoint Presentation

Personnel involved in the project (names and roles):

Mark Breckenridge Program Manager
Tracey Gude District Officer
Corinne Harper District Officer

(Appendix 1)

Me & My Baby Workshop

Becoming a parent is one of the most important and difficult things you can do, as well as one of the most rewarding. However, there is no instruction manual for all the things you will face. To raise a child is a huge responsibility which is usually taken for granted - many people assume that no special training is required. Most parents learn as they go, influenced by the way they were brought up, or by what they have read or watched others do. However, what happens when you are only 16 years of age and have not had any exposure or experience with babies, do not have any parental support and you are about to have a baby.

It is a lot to ask. Your children and your community rely on you to do this well.

In our role as District Officers in the Pregnant & Parenting Program it was apparent to us that these young parents needed support and leadership in gathering information and obtaining guidance on being a parent.

After many meetings with Queensland Health & Young People's Health for their expertise, Mission Australia for funding and many other agencies for their support the 'Me & My Baby Workshop' was developed.

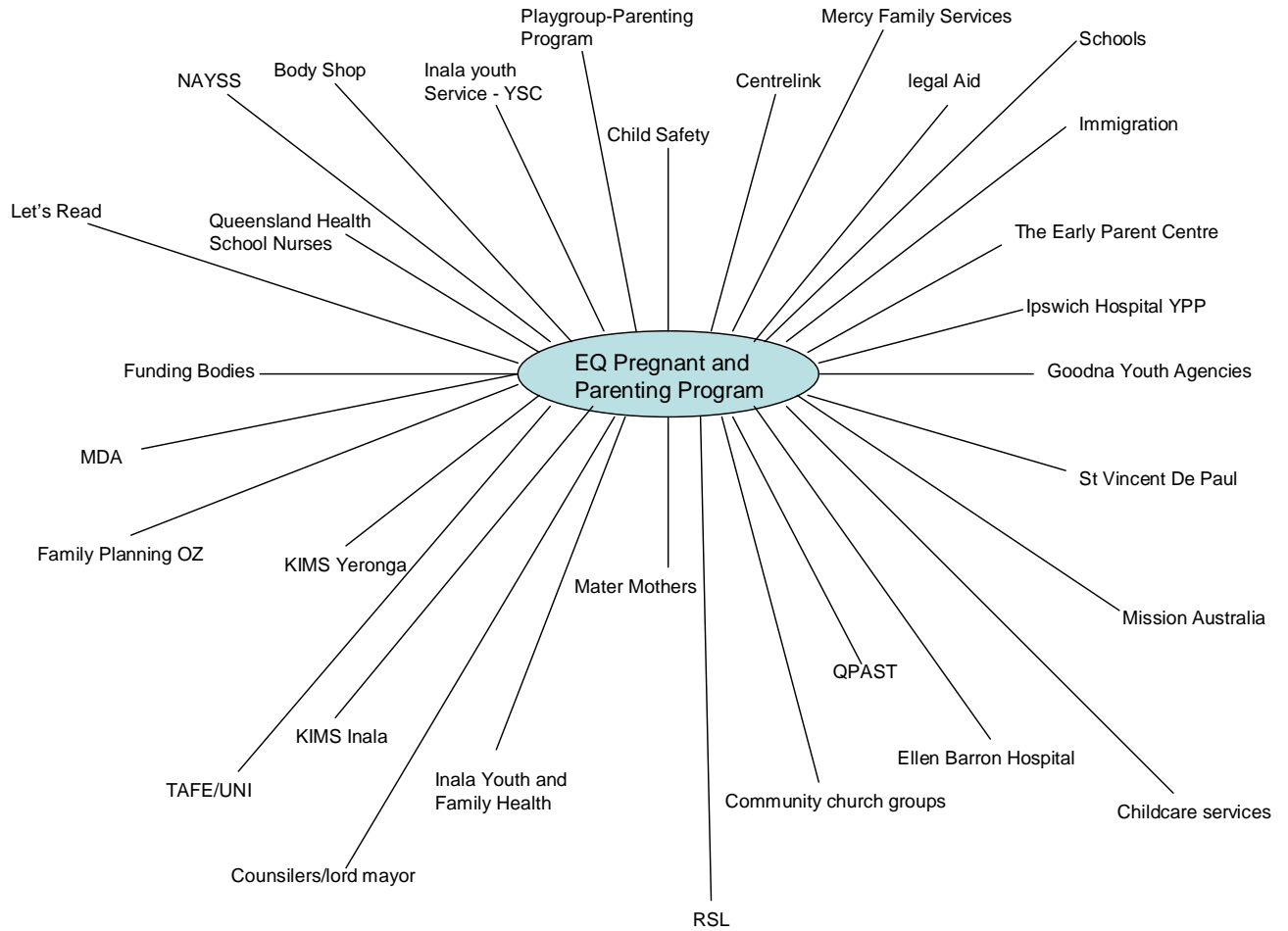
Queensland Health has provided the program with Child Health Nurses delivering their expertise on a variety of topics. Young People's Health Team has provided the support of their Senior Social Worker. Mission Australia have been very supportive in the development of this program by providing funding to assist with the costs of resources and allowing the Young Ipswich Parents Program worker to provide transport with their mini bus to and from the venue.

The workshops are held at Ipswich State High School, however all young mums within our community are welcome. Inviting other young mothers in our community gives them an insight of life as a pregnant or parenting student. We believe that this will encourage our young mothers to return to school upon realising the support and opportunities available.

Currently we are running a pilot program of six sessions over six weeks, duration being two hours per session. Each week we have a guest speaker which delivers information on the topic of the day. These sessions are held in a casual environment where the students can talk and ask the speaker questions. Our young mothers are given pamphlets, books and session notes each week. Each mum has been supplied with a scrap book and folder that they are developing into a reference book for later use. At the end of each session we have art & craft supplies available so the mums can be creative with their reference books. This also allows time for some peer support and informal chats with the support workers that are available. This program has been such a success that Queensland Health will now continue running this program in the wider community and in our rural areas.

Education Queensland Pregnant & Parent Program will use evaluation tools to evaluate this program at its end to help us develop a program that is may be more beneficial to our young mothers & fathers within our community.

(Appendix 2)



(Appendix 3)

To Whom It May Concern

This letter is written on behalf of the Redbank Plains Parents & Citizens Association to strongly support of the Pregnant and Parenting Students program offered to students at the Redbank Plains State High.

The parent body believes that it is important that all students have the opportunity to successfully complete their secondary education. This is goal challenging to many students, the more so to pregnant and parenting students.

This program was commenced in 2003/2004 and a number of our students have received significant support and encouragement. This program has enabled these students to complete their secondary education while pregnant or parenting children.

This program allows for the involvement of youth workers and community organisations with the student, and their families, to identify, and find solutions for, the problems that may prevent the student from completing their formal secondary education.

The Parents & Citizens Association strongly supports this program and is confident that the excellent results so far achieved will continue and will have lifetime benefits for those students who are assisted by the program.

Ian Maller
President
Parents & Citizens Association
17/02/2008

(Appendix 4)

P&P Program Case Study – Kay

Kay was 16 when she fell pregnant and was still attending school. She had doubts that she would stay at school because once she started to show everyone would then know her secret. She was unaware that continuing her education was a possibility. She was not sure what she was going to do. She did not have the support of the baby's father and she already had a rocky relationship with her mother after getting into trouble with drugs & alcohol. She was currently living with her Nan and was worried about getting kicked out and having no where to live.

Kay finally shared her secret with one of her teachers and was referred to the Youth Worker for Education Queensland Pregnant & Parenting Program. The Youth Worker came to the school to meet with Kay and discussed all of her options regarding her pregnancy, education and her family.

The P&P Youth Worker referred Kay to Family Planning and supported her during this stressful time. After that meeting loaded up with loads of information Kay decided that she would continue with her pregnancy and wanted to stay at school to finish year 12.

The P&P Youth Worker referred Kay to Reconnect who supported her with the relationship issues she was experiencing her family. With the support of Reconnect her family thought that Kay was showing some responsibility and thought she was making the right choices and gave her their support.

Her P&P Youth Worker arranged a meeting with the Guidance Officer to assist her with a study timetable. Kay decided to drop one subject to give her some free time to study at school.

While experiencing morning sickness her P&P Youth Worker spoke to the Principal on her behalf to discuss her options of starting school later in the day and arrange a safe quiet place to rest during her later stages of her pregnancy.

Kay was able to rely on her P&P Youth Worker to visit her on a regular basis at school where they discussed the many matters that were affecting Kay's school life as a pregnant student.

Her P&P Youth Worker also assisted Kay with support and transport to her anti-natal visits to the hospital, her meetings with Centrelink, doctor's visits and passed on many donated goods such as baby clothing and baby items. The P&P Youth Worker also assisted Kay with her arrangements to attend the Year 12 formal.

Kay also enjoyed the many social gatherings organised by the P&P Program such as, the afternoon teas, pamper days and the end of year/Christmas Party. At these gatherings Kay also meet other support staff from other agencies/programs that would continue their support after she graduated from school

With the support of the P&P Program, Principal, Teachers, Students, Reconnect, Oasis, Young People's Health, Mission Australia and her family and friends Kay graduated Year 12 in 2008 and is now enjoying motherhood, happily living with her partner and studying at TAFE.

(Appendix 5)

4 June 2008

Dear Ms Harper

RE: 'Me & My Baby' Workshop

I am writing in support of your program "Me and My Baby" targeted at young pregnant and parenting woman in the Ipswich/Moreton region. I note your commitment to obtaining funding to allow this program to continue past the current pilot period.

One of the major risk factors for a child entering the Child Safety system is the young age of the parent and another is isolation from family and community supports. The Department often receives reports of concern about pregnant and parenting young people who have limited knowledge or skills relation to the care of an infant, coupled with relationship and financial problems which place them under substantial emotional stress. This may be because the young person themselves has experienced poor parenting role models and has limited positive family support. These variables can unfortunately combine to create significant risk of harm to a newborn or infant baby, and young parents often lack knowledge of where they can go to get parenting information and resources.

I would like to give my unequivocal support for the continuation of you program, as pregnant and parenting young people in the Ipswich/Moreton region have limited opportunities to access supports and services that both targeted at their specific needs, and acknowledge that many young people would be reluctant to attend a program with adults. That the program is run at Ipswich High school provides a more accessible environment for this target group and thus more likely that young people from a wide range of backgrounds will attend.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Richardson
a/Manager
Ipswich North Child Safety

(Appendix 6)

11th March 2008

To Whom it May Concern,

The Education Queensland Pregnant and Parenting Program at Yeronga State High School provides an outstanding and critical support service to a number of our female students.

The program is now in its fifth year, having begun here in 2004 during which time it has supported 12 students. Currently there are 7 pregnant girls or young mother from Yeronga who receive assistance. I understand that the program at a wider level has managed almost 180 students.

Nearly all of the girls supported at Yeronga SHS are of a refugee background. They have arrived in Australia recently and sometimes have no family who has survived to help them. Others culturally are rejected by their families and wider community because of their pregnancy. Without the support of the P&P Program they would be struggling to cope alone. Many have had little prior education in Africa, are only beginning to learn English and about our cultural norms, they frequently understand little about their bodies, the changes that occur in pregnancy or how to best self-care during this crucial period. Likewise they have no knowledge about birth or child rearing. It is a most important service that is provided on this level through Pregnant and Parenting. Arguably, in fact, the most significant input that this service provides at Yeronga is to improve student' parenting skills and their ability to balance family and education or work.

Fundamentally however, the service aims to assist these girls to complete schooling and find a successful future pathway. It works very capably to increase participation rate of pregnant and parents students in education, training or work. This is very evident at Yeronga where, for example, 4 graduated from senior schooling in yr 12 2007, 5 are currently in schooling, 3 are studying at TAFE level and 2 are parenting full time. The Education Queensland P&P Program is pivotal in finding child-care placement for the babies and often negotiates mutual understanding at the nursery and with the young mum of some of the issues and challenges facing the parent and the child. They facilitate transport to and from Childcare and onward to school and consider where geographically it will be most beneficial for the baby to be in relation to the school.

Moreover, P&P works with Yeronga girls most effectively in understanding the school context and the demands of the timetable, assignments and assessments and how these impact on a young mother. The organization is very proactive in communicating the girls individual needs with me and with others both at the leadership level and with the school's Student Support Services. They likewise work with teachers and TAFE tutors where applicable to develop the best plans for the girls' continued education. Without this support the female students would mostly simply not be able to maintain or complete their schooling. The P&P Program is undoubtedly promoting an education setting that welcomes and supports pregnant and parenting students.

In addition, the program goes above and beyond the requirements of classroom assistance. This is seen particularly through a regular Playgroup meeting out-of-school hours held at the Yerong SHS library. It offers mentoring opportunities for these students and allows the girls to chat informally about many problems. Significantly it also provides the girls with clothes, nappies, baby goods, such as cots and high chairs, as well as toys and books, without which these young women would struggle to finance or indeed know what to purchase for their child. Pregnant and Parenting collect and manages all of these provisions.

Also, the program has initiated other actions that provide quality intrinsic value to their at-risk clients. These include special excursions to parks for Mums and babies, and events such as pampering sessions that provide a rare occasion for these girls to relax and laugh. The whole –of-service care is outstanding.

Moreover, it has developed a successful partnership with the local Baptist Church group for ongoing funds to be put to the use of these students. Currently, more that \$1000 had been donated. It's used not only for baby-related products but also for the girls in relations to paying for school textbook hire, their uniforms and other educational needs. Students here have also been assisted through the developments of packages with breastfeeding literature for multicultural families. The program has created a sleep techniques course with students in collaboration with the school based Youth Health nurse. The Yeronga P&P manager currently attends local WAYWARD women's networking forums on a monthly basis to ensure adequate referral services, and id included on the consultative group minutes for the schools' networking. Each of these initiatives demonstrates that Pregnant and Parenting is most able in its capacity of establishing whole of district support systems to address the needs of its clients.

Therefore, I strongly believe that this EQ Pregnant and Parenting program is successfully addressing the above risk factors through achieving many key goals, it undoubtedly improves service delivery and support for pregnant and parenting students. I am very happy to endorse tis application to the ES Showcase Awards 2008.

Yours faithfully

Gai Nastasi for Frances Ordord
Head of Special Education Services (English as a Second Language)
Yeronga State High School
Ph 3249 1443
Email: forfo1@eq.edu.au

(Appendix 6)

16th June 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Byron Mulligan and I am Project Coordinator with Ipswich Community Youth Service, and I am writing in support of the Pregnant & Parenting Program and the important role this program plays in helping young people in our region.

This ETRF Program encourages and supports pregnant and parenting adolescents to remain in the educational setting of their choice to complete their education, as well as assisting those who have left school to re-engage in the education system.

The Program currently services 21 high schools in the Moreton education region plus 2 Central district high schools and has supported nearly 180 students since it began in 2004. This is an incredible achievement and plays a vital role in assisting young people to stay engaged in education and preparing for work.

This program is a leader among the education initiatives presently operating in our region, by supporting a large group of at risk students not previously or presently supported anywhere else. It provide an important resource to all Moreton region school and student support staff who work together in assisting students continue their studying while pregnant or parenting.

As a community organization we also work closely with schools and students, and acknowledge the Pregnant & Parenting Program as a key service in our area who continues to provide flexible, innovative, customised support to at risk students.

Byron Mulligan
Project Coordinator
Ipswich Community Youth Service Inc

(Appendix 7)

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in strong support of the Pregnant and Parenting Students program funded through the Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF) under the District Youth Achievement Plan (DYAP).

Since the inception of the program in 2003/2004 21 of our students have received significant support and encouragement. This program has enabled these students to complete their secondary education while pregnant or parenting children.

Completing secondary education is a challenge. Achieving this milestone whilst also pregnant or parenting a child presents a raft of challenges. The work undertaken by the Youth Workers with individuals, families, schools and community organisations has focussed on identifying barriers to this goal and delivering solutions for these young people.

The youth workers regularly attend Ipswich and other local interagency meetings to ensure appropriate referral for the students. To be present at working parties such as Pregnant and Parenting Planning days guarantee that young parenting and pregnant students remain a focus of organisations.

Our school has provided a range of flexible pathways and alternatives for learning designed to support the achievement of the above goal. The Youth Workers employed through this program have been critical in the development and implementation of these options. The work they do each day, and in many cases after hours and on weekends, has made a real difference to the lives of these young people and is clear example of the successful implementation of the ETRF agenda.

M A Breckenridge
PRINCIPAL
4 April 2008

(Appendix 8)

I am writing to provide support for Queensland Education Pregnant and Parenting Program that Corinne Harper and Tracey Gude facilitate.

Young Ipswich Parent Project has had the pleasure on working alongside this project many times. We have worked in partnership with the Pregnant and Parenting project in the Me and My Baby workshop, afternoon teas and working with mutual clients who have been supported by Corinne to return to education once their babies were born.

By supporting pregnant and parenting students in the local high school they make a difference in the parents life's which in turn assists their children.

As the number of under 18sbirths in Ipswich Hospital year reached 250, YIPP is more than happy to support the work that Corinne and Tracey do, the program supports many aspects of the student's life and together with the various agencies provides the best outcomes in a range of areas for the Mum and baby.

Yours Sincerely

Kathrine Hicks
Young Ipswich Parent Project
Community Development Worker\
Mission Australia