



## Preparatory Year Update February 2004

### Welcome

Welcome to the January update on the Preparatory Year a component of the reforms detailed in Queensland the Smart State. Education and Training Reforms for the Future: A White Paper released in November 2003.

These updates will keep you informed of the preparatory year trial and progress towards full implementation in 2007. They will also provide you with links to other sources of important information about the Preparatory Year.

Previous updates and additional information on all areas of the ETRF are available to download from the ETRF website at: <http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf>

### Announcing a Preparatory Year for Queensland

The Queensland Government has announced two important changes to early childhood education:

- Introducing a voluntary, full time preparatory year before Year 1 in 2007; and
- Raising the school starting age for Year 1 in 2008.

This means that:

- All children born on or after January 2002 will be eligible for the new voluntary preparatory year of schooling before enrolling in Year 1.
- Children must turn five by 30 June in the year they begin their preparatory year.
- The preparatory year will replace the current part time preschool program from 2007.

The ETRF team through Strategic Implementation Branch is responsible for coordination and management of the trial and implementation including strategic planning and policy development.

Ms Terry Creagh is the non-government schools representative providing input from the sector on aspects regarding the trial and implementation. Terry can be contacted via email

[terryc@gcec.qld.catholic.edu.au](mailto:terryc@gcec.qld.catholic.edu.au)

**Anne Marie Boyle**

**Principal Adviser**

**Ph: (07) 3237 0765**

### Preparatory Year trial in 2004

The start of the school year marks the commencement of the second phase of the *Preparing for School* trial, where an additional 27 schools joined with the 39 phase one schools to offer a full-time preparatory year of schooling. Approximately 1200 students are participating in the trial this year. A full list of trial schools is located on the website at

<http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf/prep.html>

Four Education Officers are providing advice and support to school staff participating in the trial and to inform the overall planning for implementation.

**Jenny Blake**

**Senior Policy Officer**

**(07) 3237 0812**

### Evaluating the Trial

The first progress report on the external evaluation of the 2003 *Preparing for School* trial has been received from the *Queensland Early Childhood Consortium*. The Executive Summary has been distributed to key stakeholders. The final report for the external evaluation of the 2003 trial is due in June 2004. The evaluation and monitoring processes for 2004 are being finalised.

**Kerry Wilson**

**Senior Adviser**

**Ph: (07) 3235 4481**

### Establishing professional support networks

Work is underway to continue a range of learning and development opportunities for teachers involved in the *Preparing for School* initiative. Strategies include discussion lists, online chats via The Learning Place, teleconferences and face-to-face meetings.

**Nieke Groenenberg**

**Education Officer (Prep Support)**

**(07) 4121 1719**

### Early Years Curriculum

To support home tutors working with preparatory aged children the video 'The Preparatory Year in Distance Education - Ready Set Go' has been produced. The video shows home tutors working with preparatory aged children in a variety of settings and outlines the key components of the draft *Early Years Curriculum Guidelines*.

**Robert Tomaschewski**

**Principal Policy Officer**

**(07) 3237 0965**

All trial schools have been provided with an updated Early Years Curriculum Guidelines, and Early Learning and Development Framework incorporating feedback from preparatory trial teachers last year. The updated curriculum is available at:

<http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/preschool/files/eycurric.pdf>

It is anticipated that the curriculum will be finalised by the end of 2005.

**Carolyn Harrod or Patricia**

**Connell via email**

[office@gsa.qld.edu.au](mailto:office@gsa.qld.edu.au) or phone

**(07) 3864 0299**

**For more information** about the *Preparing for School* trial email: [etrfimplementation@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:etrfimplementation@qed.qld.gov.au)

Phone **(07) 3237 1350** or Visit the website at: <http://www.education.qld.gov.au/etrf> (click on the *Getting Ready for School* link)