



See the Future

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Preparatory Year Implementation Update November 2004

Welcome

Welcome to the November update on the Preparatory Year: part of *Queensland the Smart State Education and Training Reforms for the Future: A White Paper* released in November 2002.

These updates will provide information on the preparatory year and progress towards full implementation in 2007.

Changes to early education in Queensland

The Queensland Government has announced that it will:

- implement a non-compulsory, full-time preparatory year before Year 1 in 2007; and
- raise 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 non-compulsory preparatory year before enrolling in Year 1.
- children must turn five by 30 June in the year they begin their preparatory year.
- the current part time, state preschool program will not be provided in state schools from 2007.

Ninety-six schools will be offering a prep class in 2005. In 2006, 20 more state and up to five non-state schools will offer a preparatory year.

Preparatory Year Facilities

The construction of new and refurbished classrooms for the 2005 phase-in schools is proceeding to program.

It is proposed that new-buildings and the majority of refurbishments for the 2005 schools are completed by December 2004. This will enable inspection and feedback from stakeholders before the end of the school year.

For other schools the visits/audits are also on track. The recommended solution is made in consultation with the school principal at the time of the visit.

Premier Visits Proserpine Prep site

Premier Peter Beattie and Acting Education Minister Mike Reynolds have inspected the site works at Proserpine

State School: one of two prototype buildings that will take centre stage in next year's preparatory year initiative.

Construction of Proserpine State School's preparatory year facility is well underway and will be ready in time for the school to offer two preparatory classes in 2005.

"The addition of an extra year of school is one of the most important reforms the Queensland Government is undertaking," he said.

"That's why we're taking the time to get it right," Mr Beattie said.

Principal Raelee Cox said it was a wonderful project to be involved in and that 50 children had enrolled to start prep in January 2005.

"Parents had embraced the concept," she said.

Plan view of a
prep year prototype
classroom



Preparatory year television commercial now online

If you have missed the recent screening of the new Preparatory Year commercial, you can catch it online.

Education Minister Anna Bligh launched the campaign last month to increase parent understanding about eligibility in 2007 for the Prep Year.

The commercial features a new logo, Prep 2007. The ads are on again in January 2005.

View the ad or read the transcript at:

www.education.qld.gov.au/prep

Prep Year Professional Development

Teachers and principals from 30 schools offering the preparatory year for the first time in 2005 participated in 2 days of professional development in Brisbane on 11 and 12 November 2004.

The program provided an introduction to the draft *Early Years Curriculum Guidelines* and strategies for the management and operation of prep. There was a high level of interest from participants and feedback from the day was positive.

Highlights of the day included presentations from current prep school teachers and principals.

They shared advice on how to ensure continuity between what students learn in the prep year and the early primary school years. Presenters emphasised the importance of getting parents involved in student learning.

Prep Stories from Education Views Now Online

Schools offering a preparatory class regularly contribute articles to *Education Views*, the fortnightly newspaper published by Education Queensland.

These articles are in one convenient location at: education.qld.gov.au/etrf/news.html

Check out the next edition of *Education Views* (published 26 November 2004) for the prep end of year wrap-up.

For more information

- Email etrfimplementation@ged.qld.gov.au
- Visit the website at: www.education.qld.gov.au/etrf (click on the Preparing for School link) or
- Subscribe to Education Queensland's email updates at: education.qld.gov.au/community/service/news/
- Call your local school or Education Queensland District Office or Diocesan Office, details can be found at education.qld.gov.au/schools/directory/
- Phone 1300 650 220