

Newsletter

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Issue One May 2008

Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

Welcome from the ADG

Welcome to the first issue of the external newsletter for the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts. The Division was established to ensure a more integrated departmental approach to Indigenous education, training and the arts. Building strong Indigenous communities supported by learning and the arts is a priority area for our Department.

This newsletter will update you on programs and initiatives being implemented across the state to improve education, training and arts outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and ensuring stronger futures and stronger results.

Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General

Staff updates

Marg Pethiyagoda has been appointed Director, Strategic Policy Indigenous Education. Previously Director, Workforce Policy and Research, Strategic Human Resources, Marg brings extensive experience in policy development, program management, regional/district operations and administration. She helped develop Western Cape College and the Mount Isa Education and Training Precinct including Spinifex State College.

Marg is replacing **Ann-Marie Boyle** who retires on May 2 after a career with the Department during which she was involved in many innovations and led the implementation of Prep. Ann-Marie had a crucial role in developing the Division's strategic plans. We

thank Ann-Marie for her commitment and contributions and wish her all the best in retirement.

Angela Douglas joins the Division as the first Director of Schools. Angela was principal at Waterford West State School and Woorabinda State School and also served as Principal Advisor Moreton West District. Angela is finalising her PhD studies in Indigenous Education at QUT.

Strategic Plan out in schools

Schools and stakeholders have responded positively to the release of the first whole-of-department Indigenous learning and arts and the Indigenous education strategic plan. Copies of the *Indigenous Learning and Arts Strategic Plan 2008-2011* and the *Indigenous Education Strategic Directions 2008-2011* plan were issued to Queensland state schools and key stakeholders in education, training and the arts on April 18.

The plans are available at

<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/planning/ilasp.html> or call Sarah Kendall on 3237 9706.

Students debate in Canberra

Six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are among 26 senior secondary delegates representing Queensland at the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra from April 29 to May 1. The Indigenous delegates were elected at special zone conventions held in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. Some 540 senior students from 144 schools took part

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in 11 zone conventions around the state in February and March.

Backing Indigenous Arts launch

Minister for Education, Training and the Arts Rod Welford will launch Backing Indigenous Arts in Cairns on May 7 to mark a new era for the Far North Queensland Indigenous Arts Industry.

Through Backing Indigenous Arts, the Queensland Government is investing in a \$10.7 million four-year partnership with local councils, art centres and arts organisations to bring Far North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures to the world.

For more information, contact Raelene Baker at Arts Queensland on 1800 175 531.

Klebawan Program underway

Year 4 to 6 students in the Sunshine Coast South region are taking part in a pilot program aimed at identifying Indigenous students with very high learning potential.

The Klebawan Program (Aboriginal Kriol for 'clever one' from northern Australia) is running in 23 Sunshine Coast schools. The program uses the Coolabah Dynamic Assessment (CDA) developed by Dr Graham Chaffey to identify these bright minds.

A variety of strategies, including learning clubs (one is being held in May), are designed to allow children to develop cognitive efficiency while enhancing academic self-efficacy to help reach their potential.

The program has drawn interest from across Queensland and new programs start soon at Toowoomba, Cunnamulla and Charleville.

For more information, contact Penny Hamilton on 3237 0910.

B4S ambassadors on board

Principals with experience in remote communities are promoting the job through the Department's new Bound for Success (B4S) Ambassadors Program.

Far North Queensland Regional Executive Director Clive Dixon said the Department was harnessing the principals to inspire others. The ambassadors will share stories about the benefits and challenges of teaching on Cape York and the Torres Strait and identify, nominate and mentor potential leaders, supported by regional mentoring programs and the Indigenous Schooling Support Unit.

For more information, contact the ISSU on 4044 5600 or www.issu.com.au

Training network meets

Indigenous VET Initiatives hosted the first quarterly meeting of the Indigenous VET Senior Officers Network (IVSON) for 2008 last week. Directors and managers responsible for Indigenous VET in TAFE Queensland Institutes, the Australian Agricultural College Corporation and IVI discussed 2007 Indigenous VET performance and initiatives, 2008 strategic priorities and training synergies with Arts.

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To contribute items to this newsletter, please email:
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