

State Schools of Tomorrow

Tomorrow's Schools – providing for a smarter future

Fact Sheet

Inala – Durack Project

21st Century education and learning school facilities for Inala-Durack

The Queensland Government's \$850 million *State Schools of Tomorrow* project is driving the modernisation and redevelopment of state schools to transform them into 21st century teaching and learning environments.

Through this exciting community-driven State Government program, the Inala area will receive the biggest boost to education in its history.

Six schools in the Inala-Durack area are to be provided with 21st Century education and learning facilities through a \$69.5 million *State Schools of Tomorrow* project.

Durack, Inala, Richlands East and Serviceton South state schools, Western Suburbs Special School, and Glenala State High School will be upgraded to give students better educational opportunities.

The renewal of Durack, Inala, Richlands East and Serviceton South state primary schools will provide them with high-quality facilities to better meet 21st Century learning needs – including more spacious and more flexible classrooms, modern communications technology, practical learning areas and undercover play and assembly areas. Each will feature a 'Learning for Life' Centre and have access to a cluster Literacy Centre for the Inala Community Literacy Project.

The four state primary schools will have capacity from 2010 and 2011 to accommodate students from the nearby Inala West and Richlands state schools which will close at the end of the 2009 and 2010 school years respectively.

Glenala State High School will be revitalised with new and remodelled buildings, and renewed industrial technology and design facilities to enhance vocational education and training opportunities for students. The school hall will be about doubled in size and transformed into a modern multi-purpose performance centre which will be available for use by all Inala cluster schools as well as the community. A cluster sports measurement centre will also be built at the school.

Western Suburbs Special School facilities will be enhanced, with a work skills centre to be established. The centre will contain modern design and production amenities.

The school renewals have been designed to allow the schools to become genuine community resources, with the renewed schools able to support new adult learning opportunities outside of school hours or as venues for school and community programs and events.

Why are some schools closing?

Both Inala West and Richlands state schools are located on small sites — about half the typical size of a new primary school, have low enrolment numbers which are not projected to increase to a significant degree and are very close to other local primary schools which are considered to be more sustainable.

When will the schools close?

It is anticipated that Inala West State School will close at the end of the 2009 school year and the Richlands State School will close at the end of 2010 school year. Education Queensland will now begin planning to make the move of young people to their new schools as smooth as possible.

What will happen to the funds from the sale of the schools?

Anticipated returns from the sale of Inala West and Richlands state school sites have been included in the project budget.

What makes one school more 'sustainable' than another?

Factors taken into account in deciding which schools to close include:

- The size of the school's enrolment which limits the diversity of curriculum and opportunities for students
- The school's enrolments are in decline or there is only limited growth expected in the future
- There are other, more viable state schools nearby
- The Community Reference Group (Principal and P&C representatives) agreed that the school is one of the least sustainable in the cluster

Will there be any job loss as a result of this initiative?

No. Officers of the department will work with all affected school staff and unions to ensure an open and transparent transition process is developed and implemented resulting in all staff being placed in jobs.

Will unions be consulted about this initiative and the transition process?

Yes. Officers of the department have already held numerous discussions with the QTU; LHMU; & QPSU regarding this initiative. Assurances have been given to unions that further consultation will occur during the development of the transition process for school staff, and will continue during all phases of implementation.

What if I'm not a union member? Will I be consulted?

Yes. All affected school staff will be consulted during the development of the transition process and throughout the implementation of this initiative.

What if I'm not happy with the outcome?

Officers of the department will be available to discuss your concerns and work with you to achieve a resolution suitable to both you and the department.

When will the renewal of schools in the Inala area take place?

The renewal of the schools is planned to be completed for the start the 2010 school year.

What role will schools now have in planning the renewal?

Planning for the renewal of the schools will involve the development of a master plan and site-specific detailed plans. This will require considerable consultation at each school site involving school representatives, a parents and citizens' association representative, Education Queensland staff and contractors.

How will the construction work affect my child's learning?

Student learning will continue to be the key priority for schools. While construction work will inevitably cause inconvenience at times. Education Queensland staff are very experienced at handling the construction issues alongside school operations. Detailed planning will be undertaken at each site to stage construction work and provide suitable accommodation for students and staff at all stages of the construction to ensure the least amount of impact as possible.

Parents and carers will receive regular updates from their school to keep them well informed.

What will the school renewal mean for the individual schools?

All schools being renewed will gain high-quality facilities to better meet 21st Century learning needs. These will include more spacious and more flexible classrooms, modern communications technology, practical learning areas, and undercover play and assembly areas.

- **Primary schools**

'Learning for life centres' will be established to develop life skills through facilities such as a kitchen and laundry. The centres will be used for both teaching and activities such as breakfast clubs.

A literacy centre for primary school students will be established, based at one school but shared by all primary schools and linked with the Inala community literacy project.

- **Western Suburbs Special School**

As well as the general facilities upgrade, a work skills centre will be built to enhance students' skills and opportunities. This will contain a production line, metal and woodwork area, nursery, design centre with computer aided design and areas for papermaking and other activities.

- **Glenala State High**

Along with new and remodelled buildings, renewed industrial technology and design facilities will enhance vocational education and training opportunities for students.

Glenala State High School hall will be transformed into a modern multi-purpose performance centre, double its current size. It will be available for use by all local schools as well as the community.

A cluster sports measurement annex attached to the Glenala Sports Hall will support a planned sports program across the schools to promote student engagement.

Will the renewed facilities be available for community use?

An important feature of the renewal program is that renewed schools will be able to support new adult learning opportunities outside of school hours and/or become venues for school and community programs and events or co-located services.

What will happen where community organisations currently use school facilities at either Inala West or Richlands state schools?

Community-use agreements should be able to continue at closing schools through until their closure. Local consultation will need to occur with a new school to develop a new agreement for the following year.

What school will my child attend once Inala West State School and Richlands State School close?

There will be a capacity at the renewed schools for students from Inala West and Richlands state schools from the commencement of the 2010 and 2011 school years respectively.

Please contact your Principal if you have any concerns.

A survey of parents will occur in late 2008 and again in 2009 to confirm student movements.

What sort of support is there for parents?

- **School uniforms**
Financial assistance of \$285 will be available to parents of students who have to change primary schools to buy uniforms for their new school. This assistance will be available at the end of the 2009 school year for Inala West State School and at the end of the 2010 school year for Richlands State School.
- **Transport**
Students' who live more than 3.2 km from the nearest state primary school or 4.8 km from the nearest state high school, may be eligible for financial support through the Department of Transport's School Transport Assistance Scheme.

Further information on financial assistance can be obtained from - http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/Assistance_and_services/Grants_and_subsidies/School_transport_assistance_scheme_stas/

How will the history of Inala West and Richlands schools be preserved?

The history of each school is very important. The Department encourages schools to document their history. This material could be part of a commemorative publication or be included on the website of the main schools to which Inala West and Richlands students move. Financial assistance may be available to the school to help with this

process. Significant memorabilia will also be relocated to receiver schools or other appropriate locations.

Representatives of the Italian community will be consulted to ensure that the monuments to the early Italian settlers located at the Richlands State School are relocated to an appropriate site.

Will Inala West and Richlands state schools facilities continue to be maintained prior to closure?

Education Queensland will continue to fund the appropriate maintenance of Inala West and Richlands state schools to ensure the safety and welfare of students, staff and visitors.

How will my child benefit from going to a different school?

State Schools of Tomorrow sets a new benchmark in innovative school design and planning. It focuses on modernising schools and equipping them with exceptional facilities, resources and technologies that support a broad range of new or increased educational opportunities which may not have been available at your child's old school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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