

INALA - State Schools of Tomorrow

PLANNING THE FUTURE OF INALA'S SCHOOLS

Newsletter No 1

August-September 2007

Community consultation begins

Community consultation has begun to find the best way to renew and revitalise State schools in Inala as part of a project for Education Queensland's Tomorrow's Schools Program. The project could see up to \$49 million spent on local schools over the next four years.

The consultation is being undertaken by an independent facilitator Kent Maddock of Sagacity Consulting.

The process will involve a review of existing facilities and enrolments and seek the community's views on issues, ideas and options for local state schools.

This newsletter is part of the consultation. It contains important information and provides an opportunity for you to tell us your ideas.



State Schools of Tomorrow

The Tomorrow's School package is a record \$1 billion investment over five years in Queensland's education system to modernise and build new school facilities across the State. It includes \$850 million for school renewals – the largest one-off investment in education in Queensland's history.

The initiative has three guiding principles:

- *Enhancing educational opportunities – to advance students' skills, knowledge and creativity.*
- *Enhancing partnerships with the community – for both educational outcomes and to encourage community use of school facilities.*
- *Enhancing sustainability – for schools to have long term viability and service to their community.*

Rather than looking at individual schools, State Schools of Tomorrow is looking at projects that consider how groups of nearby schools can work together to meet the needs of their local community.

Eight schools involved

There are eight schools in the Inala group.

Primary schools:

Inala, Inala West, Richlands, Richlands East, Serviceton South and Durack.

Secondary School:

Glenala State High School.

Special School:

The Western Suburbs Special School (formerly Inala Special)

How will the community consultation work?

A Community Reference Group has been established to represent Inala schools. Each school will be represented by its principal and a P&C representative. Others, such as Education Queensland representatives and community representatives, will be invited to attend meetings as observers, and join discussions as required. It is expected that school nominees will lead and promote discussions within their school communities.

The role of the reference group is to identify and discuss options for Inala schools and sign off on a series of recommendations which will be presented to the Queensland Government for consideration.

As the consultation continues interested community representatives will be invited to present their views. Although the reference group is not a public forum, the general public will be invited to attend as observers and will be given an opportunity to raise issues.

The Community Reference Group will meet up to six times during the life of the project.

The consultation team will also contact a range of known interested stakeholders including education unions, TAFE and other education sector representatives, Indigenous Elders, multi-cultural representatives, employer representatives, local government and community associations. Follow up meetings will occur as needed.

The wider community will be informed through this newsletter, advertisements in the local media, media announcements, shopping centre displays and web-based information. The community will have the opportunity to respond via feedback sheets, submissions, meetings with the consultation team and discussion within school communities (eg P&C meetings).

The consultation is scheduled to continue until later this year with the last reference group meeting expected in November.

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Courtesy: © Google Earth Pro

Why a group approach?

A group of schools working together can offer a greater range of options to the local community and make the best use of State Government education funding through the State Schools of Tomorrow initiative.

Some schools may specialise to provide a special subject, other schools may work together to meet a community education need. Schools may relocate or amalgamate if it is found this better serves the needs of students and the community.

A group of schools promotes a shared long term approach to education.

Why Inala?

Inala is one of four Round One projects for State Schools of Tomorrow. Inala was chosen because its schools have old facilities in need of significant renewal to meet future student and community needs. Declining enrolments over the past 30 years means there are a number of small schools close together. The Inala project will ask the community whether there is a better way to organise the area's educational resources.

The project has great potential to improve student learning and educational opportunities.

A little local history

The Inala district includes the traditional lands of the Jagara people. The first European settlement was in the 1950s. After World War 2 the area was developed for housing for returned servicemen. A few years later the Queensland Housing Commission purchased land for low cost housing.

In the 1960s and early 1970s the area experienced rapid growth in population and school enrolments.

The Inala schools area is broadly covered by the Census statistical local areas of Inala, Durack and Richlands.

Across the three areas about 57% of the population was born in Australia, about

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14-16% born in Vietnam with smaller numbers born in New Zealand, England and Samoa and a small Italian-born population in Richlands. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population across the area varies from 2.5% in Durack to 3.4% in Richlands and 7.3% in Inala compared to a national average of 2.3%.

Median family weekly income across the area is less than the Australian median of \$1171 with median family incomes of \$688 in Inala, \$1073 in Durack and \$935 in Richlands.

The area also has a higher number of single parent families than the Australian average of 16% with Inala (34%), Durack (18.2%) and Richlands (22%).

School history

Most of the schools in the area were built in the 1950s and 60s, although Richlands State School was built in 1934. Glenala State High School was formed in 1995 by amalgamating Inala and Richlands state high schools.

Schools in the area have experienced enrolment decline since the early 1970s. For example Richlands East State School's enrolments have dropped from 1067 in 1968 to the present enrolment of 296.



School	Established	Capacity 2007	Enrolment 2007	Enrolment 2011	Spare Capacity 2007	Spare Capacity 2011	Asset utilisation Rate% 2007	Asset utilisation Rate% 2011	RSN 2006	RSN Attending School 2006 Western Suburbs
Special School (Inala Special)	1927	112	112							
Inala SS	1955	521	450	461	71	60	79	88	414	210
Inala West SS	1960	453	232	283	221	170	46.4	62.5	359	155
Richlands East SS	1967	583	296	363	287	220	48	62	491	215
Richlands SS	1934	216	161	176	55	40	65	81	54	20
Serviceton South SS	1963	535	338	354	297	181	59	66	772	205
Durack SS	1959	611	383	402	228	209	59	66	370	175
Glenala SHS	1996 (1962)	1166	521	553	645	613	45	47.5	1593	428

School enrolment overview. Note: RSN = Resident Student Numbers. This is the number of school students living in that school's catchment area.

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Ideas to consider

At the first meeting of the Inala Community Reference Group on Tuesday 7 August, members expressed the following thoughts about Inala state schools:

- They should play an important positive role in the Inala community. Schools should contribute to a pride in place in Inala.
- State schools should offer students a variety of choices. In curriculum there should be options that included academic, vocational and combined pathways. Schools should also help students to operate in the wider community and be aware of what they could achieve with their lives.

- Inala schools should recognise and celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Inala and look at ways of promoting cultural understanding.
- Inala schools should continue to be safe places for children and families, and schools should work together to know all the children in the area.
- Schools should specialise in certain areas and all children should be better able to access these specialties via better transport networks. Students should not have to leave the area to access the educational opportunities they required.
- Inala schools should attract and retain the very best teachers. Teachers needed the resources and support to fulfil their role.

Further information

A range of information on this project will be progressively added to the State Schools of Tomorrow website www.education.qld.gov.au/tomorrows-schools

Information will also be provided via the schools involved – check with your local school office or P&C.

Contact the Tomorrow's Schools team on:

Telephone: 3237 0008

Fax: 3237 0839

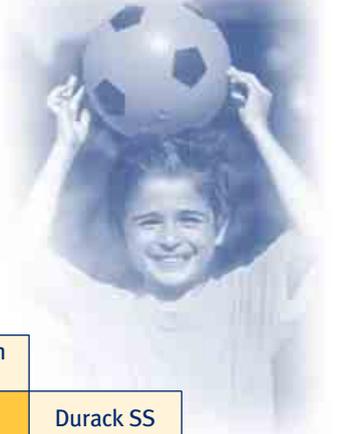
Postal: c/ Glenala State High School,
PO Box 2013 INALA HEIGHTS 4077

Email: tomorrows-schools@deta.qld.gov.au

Durack State School Principal Jill Hole has been seconded to the Inala project and will work from an office at Glenala State High School.

Approx Distances between schools in km (direct)

	Inala SS						
Inala SS		Inala West SS					
Inala West SS	1.0		Richlands East SS				
Richlands East SS	1.6	1.1		Richlands SS			
Richlands SS	2.3	1.3	1.1		Serviceton South SS		
Serviceton South SS	2.3	2.3	1.3	2.4		Durack SS	
Durack SS	1.3	1.8	1.5	2.6	1.3		Glenala SHS
Glenala SHS	0.2	1.3	1.8	2.5	2.3	1.2	



Feedback Sheet

This feedback sheet is designed to make it easier for you to provide thoughts and ideas to help guide the renewal of schools in Inala as part of the State Schools of Tomorrow program. All feedback will be logged on a database and assessed, and reported to the project's Community Reference Group.

All feedback will be regarded as confidential unless otherwise specified. The name and contact information is optional – it may allow us to contact you with further information if required.

Please feel free to add additional pages as required.

It would be appreciated if your response could reach us by Friday 7 September. There will be more opportunities for comment later in the project.

- 1. What are the main issues for you regarding state schools in Inala? In particular what are the things that Inala schools need to do to better serve the needs of students and families in the area?**

- 2. Are there aspects of the schools and education generally in Inala that you like and would like to see retained? What are they and why are they important?**

- 3. Are there also aspects of the schools and education generally in this area that could be improved? What are they and how do you think they could be improved?**



