

Defining our future direction

One of the Department's seven key priorities is developing effective policy to help provide Queenslanders with high-quality services in early childhood education and care, state schooling and training.

Building the knowledge and skills of Queenslanders is more important than ever. Education and training offers the surest pathway to current and future participation in Queensland's social and economic future.

This is reflected in the range of strategies already released – the Early Years Action Plan, Skills Strategy, Indigenous Education Strategy and the Higher Education Statement. As 2010 approaches, the Department will be working towards new strategic directions for Queensland schooling.

Early Years Action Plan

Today's Children, Tomorrow's Queensland – the early years action plan for Queensland 2010–2013 is a whole-of-government plan to support families with young children by improving health, wellbeing, safety, education and care services.

The plan brings together key initiatives across the portfolios of Communities, Health and Education and responds to reforms being made at a national level through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Early Childhood Reform Agenda. A key priority of this agenda is ensuring all children can access a kindergarten program in the year prior to Prep.

The implementation of this plan will demonstrate how government agencies can work together to deliver integrated early years services that meet the needs of Queensland families.

Skills strategy

The Queensland Government is working hard to achieve the *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* target of three out of four Queenslanders holding trade, training and tertiary qualifications by 2020.



To achieve this the Department is investing around \$700 million in the state's VET system in 2009–10. The Queensland VET system is delivering programs to more than 230,000 students in 13 TAFE institutes, supporting the regulation of about 1300 registered training providers and working in partnership with industry to deliver training to workers and job-seekers.

The recent creation of Skills Queensland has sent a strong message to industry that they will have greater ownership of the future skills agenda for the state. Skills Queensland has a vision of a truly demand-driven VET sector and is currently involved in the development of a major new reform agenda for the state's skilling system.

The Queensland and Australian Governments and other state and territory governments around Australia recognise the need to establish a broader, seamless tertiary sector that supports each state and territory's economy and particular needs. Enabling national regulation of the tertiary sector and achieving a more coherent VET market design are key aspects of this new direction.

The strategy supports employment and skills formation through the economic downturn, positioning Queensland for recovery and long-term growth. This includes particular attention to youth transitions, apprentices and retrenched workers.

Policy Development

clever • skilled • creative



Indigenous education strategy

COAG has set targets for Indigenous schooling to be achieved by 2020. In line with this, the Department's *Closing the Gap* strategy focuses on Year 3 reading and numeracy, student attendance and Year 12 retention.

Key initiatives include evidence-based intervention techniques and the expanded commitment to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across schools and programs.

The *Closing the Gap* strategy will help schools create an environment of high expectations and set their own targets based on the existing gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Schools can choose from a suite of initiatives, including programs such as Parents as First Teachers, Let's Stay Put for Literacy and Numeracy and Deadly Maths.

Higher Education Strategic Statement

The Higher Education Strategic Statement (HESS) sets a framework for the Department and Queensland universities to work together to address state and Commonwealth priorities for higher education.

The strategy outlines a broad range of activities that aim to establish a more integrated tertiary education sector. The strategy also features links with other initiatives designed to improve outcomes from schooling, training, and research and innovation.

The HESS provides scope to develop initiatives to achieve:

- more equitable participation
- increase attainment
- expand provision in outer-metropolitan and regional areas
- boost regional and community development
- build capacity to respond to professional skills needs.

Our priorities

The Department of Education and Training has seven over-arching key priorities that focus on:

1. Early Childhood Education and Care
2. Student and School Performance
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Training and Skilling Queensland
5. Infrastructure
6. Workplace Reform
7. Policy Development

For more information on each of the seven key priorities and other DET services please visit our website at www.deta.qld.gov.au or email comments to inquiries@deta.qld.gov.au