



Portfolio relationships

Education overlaps with health, welfare, housing and other issues in the lives of families. The Department liaises with other education bodies, across government and with the wider community to ensure a good fit of services and policies, and to link with broader government economic and social objectives.

### Working with education bodies

Statutory education bodies provide independent forums that develop, with non-state schools, common frameworks on curriculum, certification, assessment and reporting.

During the year, staff worked with the Queensland School Curriculum Council on the results of the Year 3 Test in literacy and numeracy, to ensure that the inaugural publication of national comparisons was accurate.

The Department worked with the Queensland Board of Senior Secondary School Studies to introduce new vocational education subjects and flexible curriculum delivery for students with disabilities.

Hall Chadwick conducted a consultancy on expenditure on curriculum development and assessment of student performance, making recommendations for future funding arrangements for the bodies responsible for these functions.

Regular liaison continued with the Board of Teacher Registration, the Tertiary Entrance Procedures Authority, university education faculties, the

Queensland Teachers' Union, the four associations of school principals, and the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens' Associations.

### Working with the wider community

The Department increased its liaison with employer groups, for example by inviting them to be part of the reference group for *Queensland State Education – 2010*. Vocational education was often the focus for contact.

“**NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHANNEL TEN QUEENSLAND AND THE TOWNSVILLE AND DISTRICT EDUCATION CENTRE HAVE RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF THE TOWNSVILLE MEDIA COLLEGE, WHICH OFFERS OUR STUDENTS SCHOOL-BASED TRAINEESHIPS IN A VARIETY OF MEDIA-RELATED FIELDS.**”

*(HEATLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE)*

The Department also funded the Creche and Kindergarten Association, more than 300 community kindergartens (\$21 million) and nine statewide organisations serving students with special needs (\$3 million).

### Working with other parts of government

The Department worked with other departments to develop policies on new pathways for school-leavers, export education, options for early education, and new child-care legislation, among others. Central

office helped develop the whole-of-government policy Putting Families First and policies about integrated service delivery and integrated planning legislation.

Other agencies provided police, nurses, doctors and dentists in schools, while the Department provided teachers in youth detention centres and supplemented transport funding for students with disabilities (\$1.6 million) and transport for students attending non-state schools outside Brisbane (\$1.5 million).

Central office worked closely with the Commonwealth Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs to plan services for Indigenous students and approval of new non-state schools.

### Outlook

Education Queensland will:

- work more closely with university education faculties on the skills required of their graduates;
- provide an additional \$1.2 million for transport of state school students with disabilities;
- distribute a discussion paper on the creation of a single authority responsible for curriculum development, assessment and certification from preschool to year 12.

The Office of Non-State Schooling operates to ensure an appropriate, reliable system of planning, approval and accountability for non-state schools, to facilitate related grant funding arrangements, to facilitate forums for consultation about matters affecting the non-state education sector's interaction with the Department, and to provide advice to the Minister and Director-General of Education on matters affecting non-state schooling.

### Over \$700 million in grants

The Department paid \$243 million of State funds to non-state schools and parents at these schools, an increase of \$7 million, amounting to a fifth of these schools' income. Eighty per cent was per capita recurrent assistance, which was calculated by a formula that passed on a proportion of any increase in the per-student funding of state schools to non-state schools.

Other major types of State Government assistance were:

- capital/interest assistance;
- Cooler Schools;
- external infrastructure subsidy;
- grammar school endowments;
- hostels;
- living away from home allowances such as remote area allowances, travel allowances and tuition allowances;
- school transport (mainstream and for students with disabilities);
- textbook and resource allowances for secondary students.

Volume 2 provides the amount of each school's grant.

Another \$494 million of Commonwealth funds was passed on to non-state schools.

These grants supported nearly 170 000 students at 426 schools, including 277 Catholic, 40 Christian, 24 Lutheran, nine Anglican and 10 Seventh Day Adventist schools.

The new Non-State Schools Authorities Council reviewed the formula for State recurrent funding. The Minister accepted its recommendations, and the new mechanism will take effect from 2001.

The council also provided advice on Commonwealth guidelines for literacy and numeracy funds, and GST implications of State grants for non-state schools.

Plans were begun to conduct a forum of state and non-state school authorities on the topic of planning future schooling provision in Queensland. Planned for October 2000, this forum will be the second one to be conducted, with the first having been held in 1998.

Seventy per cent of the Auditor-General's recommendations on grants administration were implemented, consistent with the target. The remainder will be implemented over the next year.

### Maintaining standards

Thirty-nine applications were received for accreditation of new or enhanced schools, of which 23 were approved.

A working group of state and non-state sector representatives, led by

Professor Roy Webb, reviewed the accreditation and accountability mechanisms for non-state schools. The review proposed new, clearer criteria for accreditation and accountability.

In addition, improved interim assessment and accountability arrangements for non-state schools were commenced. These will be revised when final decisions are made on the recommendations of the review of accreditation and accountability arrangements for non-state schools.

### Outlook

- From 2001, State grants to non-state schools will use a new model that consolidates a range of grants.
- The new funding arrangements include an enhancement of funds being set aside for students with special needs. In future years, these funds will be pegged at a set proportion of the total recurrent grants available for non-state schools, thus ensuring continued support.
- Another 12 non-state schools are expected to open, and attract funding.
- A new model for the accreditation and accountability of non-state schools will be developed.

Higher education, the sector offering education at degree level and above, is a shared responsibility of the State and Federal Governments.

The State is responsible for establishing and authorising the operations of universities, and for the legal environment in which they work. It is responsible for the recognition of private institutions, and the accreditation of higher education awards offered by non-university providers. It plans for higher education provision to meet community needs, and provides serviced sites for agreed new campuses. It directly funds specific capital projects aimed at improving access for Queenslanders, and supports the international promotion of Queensland universities.

This year, Queensland's eight universities had a total of 14 000 staff and 127 600 students, including 15 000 international students and 27 000 graduates.

### Key achievements

#### Drafted State Higher Education Plan

A discussion paper on higher education planning issues was circulated to universities and Government, and further negotiations are under way. The plan will identify the major contributions of higher education to the State, priority university development needs, links and opportunities for cooperation between government and universities and priorities for State support.

#### Developed national protocols

Growth in private higher education, globalisation, and new forms of

educational delivery led to a national focus on quality and accreditation arrangements. Protocols setting a common standard for all States in accrediting higher degree courses and recognising new universities were developed and subsequently adopted federally.

#### Negotiated State share of Commonwealth capital funds

The Department negotiated \$22.9 million of Commonwealth capital funding for Queensland for 2000. Funds were allocated to developments servicing high-growth regional centres, including Cairns, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay, Toowoomba, Carseldine, Ipswich, and the Gold Coast to Logan City area.

#### Managed State funds

The State's Higher Education Capital Program granted \$6.25 million to universities, for construction at Bundaberg and Cairns, and towards the relocation of two metropolitan campuses.

#### Export education consultancy convened and managed

A consultancy will report in October 2000 with strategic advice on positioning Queensland at the national forefront as an exporter of education and training.

#### International marketing initiatives

In cooperation with universities:

- international postgraduate scholarships totalling \$400 000 were negotiated;
- promotional information in eleven languages and a state-of-the-art course search facility were posted on the Internet;
- an officer was appointed to Shanghai;

- seven education ministry delegations from Asia and the Americas were organised;
- the first Queensland education industry exhibition was held in China;
- an education mission led by the Minister for Education visited China.

#### Network Internet expansion

The Queensland Open Learning Network (QOLN) was granted \$1.75 million from the federal Networking the Nation fund to improve Internet access to regional, rural and remote areas. This will further build upon the current upgrading of QOLN infrastructure, through which networked learning facilities support student learning in 40 cities and towns.

## Outlook

The Department will:

- negotiate government approval of the State Higher Education Plan;
- contribute to the implementation of the Export of Education strategy for higher education;
- host, through the Director-General, the first Queensland universities' alumni function in Malaysia;
- amend relevant legislation to conform to national accreditation protocols;
- develop international benchmarking for accreditation;
- fund the relocation of the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Mackay to Planlands.