



Key achievements in 2005–06

- Commenced implementing the *Smart Classrooms* strategy which encompasses all information and communication technology (ICT) activity whether it is used for management purposes or to directly assist learning. *Smart Classrooms* initiatives completed in 2005–06 include:
 - improved ICT access and technical support in Queensland’s 1276 state schools
 - initial planning to provide the capacity for students, parents and teachers to access class work and learning materials electronically anywhere, any time
 - the provision of ICT school grants to replace and maintain ICT infrastructure
 - providing notebook computers to over 1500 state school teachers in a trial to better integrate ICTs into the curriculum
 - improved ICT training for teachers from a comprehensive range of learning and development resources.
- Continued to invest in automation activities to improve the Department’s information system capabilities for decision making and resource control.
- Supported locally generated ICT innovation projects including improving ICT access for underrepresented student groups.

Key Challenges for 2006–07

- Sustainability – shifting from the historical emphasis of procuring ICT equipment to supporting, maintaining and replenishing ICT assets.
- Utilisation – shifting from current ICT usage practices, to providing the workforce with the capacity to fully realise the capabilities of the existing infrastructure.
- Business Transformation via automation – shifting from predominantly manual business processes to streamlining and automating work flow through technology.
- Incorporating new technologies into teaching and learning – shifting from teaching and learning about ICT to teaching and learning with and through ICT.

Objective:

To provide essential information and knowledge services to ensure a sustainable learning and managing environment.

The Department has launched an all encompassing *Smart Classrooms* strategy to ensure that information and knowledge is anchored in the classroom. [WWW](#)

Smart Classrooms represents all information and communications technology (ICT) activity whether it is used for state school management purposes or to directly assist learning in the classroom.

Strategy

Improve staff and student capacity to manage and learn through technology.

The Computers for Teachers trial is investigating the degree to which supplying teachers with individual computers assists the integration of ICTs into the learning process. Over 1500 state school teachers received notebook computers as part of the trial. The trial will run for the 2006 school year. Early reports confirm ready access to notebooks can significantly help teachers make ICT integral to the learning process.

A new competency-based professional development framework for ICT has been developed.

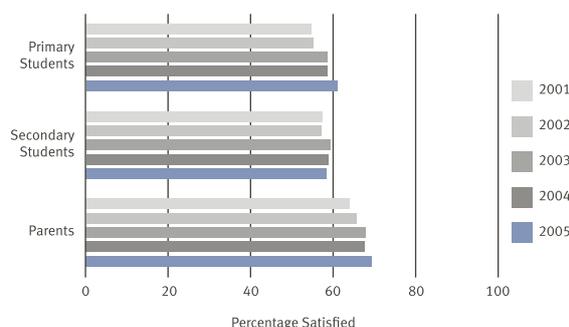
The framework consists of three levels and at each level teachers receive formal acknowledgment of their competency. Approximately 500 Queensland state school teachers were involved in the trial of the framework during the first half of the 2006 school year.

Other professional development initiatives include:

- the School ICT Leadership program that focuses on school leadership, professional practice and change management around making ICT integral to learning across schools
- the Maths and ICT program that focuses on enhancing the teaching of Mathematics through the use of ICT.

Teacher ICT Pacesetters provided opportunities for teachers of The Arts, Languages Other Than English, and Health and Physical Education to realise innovative ways of using ICT for teaching and learning. Teachers at 35 state schools initiated innovative ICT projects within their schools via innovation grants.

Figure 49: Percentage satisfied with access to computer technology 2001 to 2005



Notes: The percentage 'Satisfied' on the graph includes the proportion of those surveyed who indicated that they were either 'Satisfied' or 'Very satisfied'. Prior to 2004 the survey question relating to this indicator referred only to computers rather than computer technology.

Parents and primary students are increasingly satisfied with access to computer technology at school. Secondary students remain highly satisfied.

Students also had the opportunity to direct the way they use new technologies to learn. Through Student Pacesetters, 50 state schools developed student-negotiated ICT projects using innovation grant funding. [WWW](#)

Other ICT innovation projects include improving ICT access for underrepresented student groups such as Girls in ICT. The Department has an online computer club created by girls for girls. Go Go GIDGITS currently has more than 250 members across Queensland. [WWW](#)

Twenty teachers received statewide recognition through the ICT Teacher Awards for outstanding use of ICTs in the classroom.

Satisfaction of employees with the quality and access to ICT infrastructure and training

In 2005, 64.1% of school employees were satisfied with the quality and access to ICT infrastructure and training. This shows an increase of 0.4% from 2004, which was 63.7%.

SPPI

Making a difference ... a new way to learn about the body

“It used to take 6 hour lessons to cement the concept of the function of the heart and now using a variety of learning objects it takes barely 2 hours. My students understand the concept much better because of the digital and interactive nature of the objects. I am currently experimenting with recording my lessons in real time so the learning object and audio of the lessons are then available for review by students in their own time.”

Howard Graham (Middle School Teacher
— Chancellor State College)

Outlook 2006–07

The Department will:

- progressively implement a professional development framework designed specifically for ICT to improve teachers' ability to source appropriate training
- recognise and reward state school teachers who excel in making ICT integral to learning through the Smart Classrooms ICT Teacher Awards during the New Professionalism gala function in October 2006.

Strategy

Develop sustainable infrastructure.

ICT infrastructure for educational purposes presents unique challenges. ICT infrastructure typically has a short useful life and growth in deployment, and use in the past few years has increased substantially.

Did you know ?

There are nearly 125 000 computers used in state schools, making the Department the third largest computer user in the country.

Queensland state schools gained improved ICT access and technical support during 2005–06 through:

- better network traffic and bandwidth management technologies for schools, supporting all Internet and email users
- the upgrading of 102 voice communication systems in schools
- upgrading data network equipment in 350 schools
- implementing wireless technologies to support the Computers for Teachers trial in 61 schools.

In addition, all state schools continued to receive ICT annual grants to support them in maintaining their local ICT resources. Schools dedicated the funding across: infrastructure; connectivity; support; innovation and the teaching of learning and curriculum, and learning and development.

In the 2006 school year, approximately 200 state school teachers joined the Discovering New Technologies Smart Teaching Strand. Each of the teachers is unearthing the educational potential of MP3 players, digital video cameras or personal digital assistants (PDAs) during the year-long research project.

In 2005–06, the Department commenced trialling prototypes of extranets for students and parents. These prototypes will be used to inform future specifications.

Making a difference ... at Taigum State School through the Smart Classroom initiative

Taigum State School is using a Smart Classrooms grant to launch the Urban Sound Collective. Through this project, students at two Brisbane schools and a school in Chicago in the United States of America will unite to create a CD and a DVD of their collaborative musical works. Students will use the Department's online learning portal, The Learning Place, to exchange ideas and cultural identities and express themselves while reflecting on their creative processes. Using digital musical devices to create and record their original compositions, they will share their collaborative ideas and processes through online forums and student blogs.

Outlook 2006-07

The Department will:

- implement a centralised technical support help desk for schools
- progressively implement a consistent schools computing environment employing compatible platforms
- progressively provide the capacity for students, teachers and ultimately parents to access class work and learning materials electronically anywhere, any time.



Access to ICTs and technical staff is improving.

Strategy

Manage strategic partnerships that facilitate knowledge sharing and value for money.

In 2005, another 25 state schools, making a total of 85, joined the IBM KidSmart Early Learning Program so their Preparatory Year students can learn and play using the latest ICT.

Each participating school receives the Young Explorers Early Learning Centre supplied by IBM, featuring a fully functioning personal computer in a colourful and robust housing, specially designed for Preparatory Year students with high-quality early learning software. Teachers participating in the program undergo a comprehensive professional development program so they have the skills to make the technology integral to learning.

Twenty-seven state schools shared grant funding to open their doors to their local communities and deliver training in ICT. Among the trainees were parents who gained ICT skills to further support their children's education and community members who were drawn back to schools as places of learning.

Through the Teacher Industry Placement trial six state school teachers gained insider knowledge of the ICT industry by working in Queensland-based ICT enterprises. The full-time placements were for up to four weeks. The experience and expertise gained has been shared with other teachers and school administrators throughout the state. The participating teachers also had the opportunity to share with industry how ICT is used in today's classrooms.

The Department maintained partnerships with major IT vendors for supply of equipment and/or services to achieve value for money. These partnerships enabled the Department to source products and services and benefit from the specialist technical expertise of these organisations.

Outlook 2006-07

The Department will:

- include additional industry partners in the ICT Industries project.

Strategy

Enhance organisational responsiveness and agility through information and knowledge management.

The ICT Learning Innovation Centre, based at the University of the Sunshine Coast, is leading the way in exploring technologies that are revolutionising learning, such as spatial technologies, digital storytelling and game design. This work is stimulating organisational change by challenging traditional classroom teaching methods, the way professional development and learning is delivered and in personalising learning for a new generation of learners.

As the only centre of its kind in Queensland, this high tech facility promotes the innovative use of learning technologies and delivers quality-assured education services locally and regionally.

The Centre promotes business and productivity gains of new technologies like web streaming and podcasting.

The Centre has attracted over 10 000 student and adult learners to its high tech facilities and innovative programs during 2005-06. Of the 3300 participants surveyed, 93% rated the Centre's end-to-end service and support, practical impact on classroom practice



The innovative use of technology is advancing educational outcomes.

Making a difference ... through ICT professional development

“The Thinking Digitally FrontPage 2000 Professional Development CD became invaluable ... I used it to plan and structure my own class lessons. It was one of the most useful and relevant resources I have encountered.”

Sue Prickett, Landsborough State School

and quality of presenters as either “very good” or “excellent”.

One of the projects undertaken by the ICT Learning Innovation Centre is the Thinking Digitally project. This project was initiated to highlight new and affordable technologies and their application to enhance classroom practice. The project focuses on mentoring/coaching teachers with the skills to design, create and incorporate educationally rich and engaging digital content that today’s students desire.

The Learning Place is Education Queensland’s e-learning environment. Collaborative online projects is a new area of The Learning Place that was launched in February 2006. This development increases the functionality of The Learning Place providing teachers and students with a place to showcase their work online, and to communicate and collaborate with fellow participants, experts and community members.

The Learning Place is in its fourth year of operation and has experienced significant growth since its commencement. During 2005–06:

- Queensland state school student membership has risen from 21 608 to 29 595
- Queensland state school staff membership has risen from 17 406 to 20 671
- the number of online courses developed by school staff has grown from 2424 in 2005 to 4409 in May of 2006
- Learning Place Mentors coordinated 293 projects integrating Information and Communications Technology (ICT) into learning.

The Department holds an extensive library collection of educational resources in a range of media to support the Preschool to Year 12 education community across the state.



Students and teachers are going beyond computers to explore how the latest technologies such as MP3 players, digital cameras and personal digital assistants can transform school education.

The Department will:

- continue its endeavours to procure a modern student-centric system to capture school information.