

## Non-state schools

The department paid \$236 million to 428 Catholic and independent schools. These schools enrol 174 400 students, or about 28 per cent of the total school population.

New grants totalling \$1.65 million were provided to non-state schools for students with a disability, airconditioning of schools in central Queensland, and bus fares.

In addition to grants based on the number of students at each school, \$49 million was paid for capital works, airconditioning of schools in northern Queensland, external infrastructure required by local councils, curriculum implementation, students with a disability, transport, textbook and resource allowances and living-away-from-home allowances. A further \$448 million of Commonwealth funds was paid.

Education Queensland also gave support in-kind to non-state schools, for example, ten teachers to assist teachers of students with disabilities.

The department's planning assessment committee reviewed planning applications for new or substantially changed non-state schools. Three new non-state schools opened in 1999.

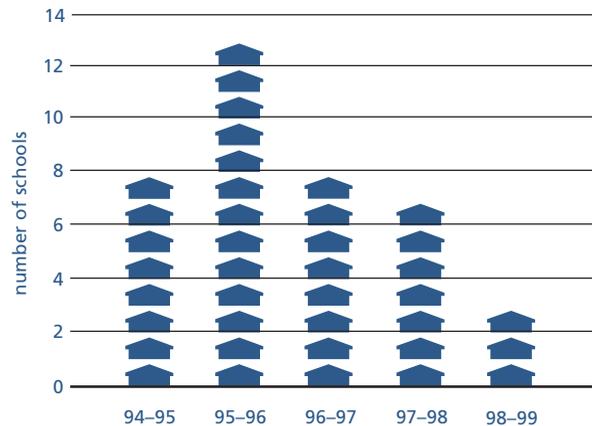
The first Queensland schools planning forum was held.

During the year, a Queensland Auditor-General review made a number of recommendations to improve the administration of grant schemes. Work began to address the issues raised.

## Universities

The department contributed to the continued development of three university campuses outside Brisbane and to the proposed relocation of the Queensland College of

Figure 7: Number of non-state schools opened



Art from Morningside to Southbank. This State contribution to university funding will improve access for regional students and increase the availability of university places in Queensland (which increased by 60 per cent between 1990 and 1999).

The new Ipswich Campus of the University of Queensland accepted its first students, with enrolments exceeding 500. It is expected to grow rapidly to about 2500 students annually.

The Cairns Campus of James Cook University received a \$7.5 million interest-free loan in advance of a Commonwealth funding commitment.

State contributions to capital works and technological infrastructure for Queensland universities in 1998-99 totalled \$18.6 million (including the JCU loan).

The *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998* granted full university status to the Sunshine Coast University College, which now has more than 2000 students.

The department worked with universities and government departments to strengthen relationships with international students, who pay \$141 million a year in university fees in Queensland, and contribute an estimated further \$134 million to the Queensland economy.

## Community organisations

A total of \$20 million was paid to 338 community kindergartens and preschools. A discussion paper on funding mechanisms was circulated.

Seventeen rural hostels supporting 268 students continued to receive grants and \$3 million was paid to community organisations that serve students with special needs.

## Outlook

- Eight non-state schools have been approved to open in 2000, and another nine to open in 2001.
- A non-state school authorities council will be established.
- Accreditation and accountability requirements for non-state schools will be reviewed.
- A biotechnology research centre at the Gold Coast Campus of Griffith University and relocation of the Australian Catholic University will be funded.