



Pre-Prep in Indigenous Communities

Edition 6
November 2008

Update

As this is the last update for the year, we would like to thank sincerely those involved in the pre-Prep project. It has been a very big year with a number of major milestones achieved in enhancing the provision of pre-Prep across 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities. Some of these milestones are outlined below.

In particular we recognise the work of teachers, teacher aides, assistants and administrators for your ongoing dedication and hard work on the ground working with young children and their families. Your willingness to embrace the *Foundations for Success*, participate in professional development, provide the project team with advice and establish critical links with the community have been invaluable to the progress of the project. In our visits to pre-Prep communities over the past year we have noted some amazing early childhood learning programs that are a testament to the professionalism of staff delivering them.

The pre-Prep project is being recognised nationally through the development of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, including the Early Years Learning Framework.

The project team wishes you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year break. For those who are moving on to new communities or jobs we wish you well. For those still a part of pre-Pep we are looking forward to continuing to work with you in 2009.

Foundations for Success: Guidelines for an early learning program in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities

The Minister for Education, Training and the Arts, Rod Welford, launched the *Foundations for Success* on Wednesday 29th October 2008 at the Cairns Regional Parliament.

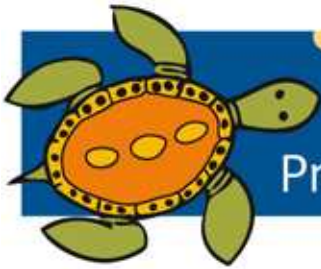
Copies of the Foundations for Success are being distributed to all pre-Prep programs before the end of the year.

You can also access a copy electronically on the Indigenous Education portal at: <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/projects/foundations.html>.

Professional development

Some 50 teachers, teacher aides, assistants and administrators joined us for a Reflection Day on Friday, 14th November 2008 in Cairns. The Reflection Day followed on from the June Induction Workshop, and gave participants an opportunity to reflect upon their use of the *Foundations for Success* over the last semester, share their successes and challenges, grow their professional networks and plan for the beginning of 2009.

The pre-Prep project team noted the enthusiasm and momentum of the teaching teams and their willingness to share openly as a professional network.



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Another face-to-face workshop is planned for early in Term 2, 2009. This workshop will provide an opportunity for new staff to pre-Prep to be introduced to the *Foundations for Success* and continue to build the leadership in staff that have been a part of pre-Prep program for a number of years.

The pre-Prep Blackboard Community on the Learning Place continues to grow a bank of resources. A log-on and password are required to access the Blackboard Community and can be provided by contacting the Learning Place via their website: <http://education.qld.gov.au/learningplace/>.

For more details regarding pre-Prep professional development please contact Glenys Melgaard, Project Officer, Indigenous Education, Projects on 07 3237 0605 or email glenys.melgaard@deta.qld.gov.au.

Capital works

Pre-Prep sites that are a part of the second phase of the capital works program have been visited by the pre-Prep project team. The information collected as part of the visit has contributed to the development of site plans and detailed designs. The project team will continue to work with these sites from early in 2009.

The Cherbourg community proudly opened their new pre-Prep facility on 5th November 2008. The day was a celebration of the history of pre-Prep at Cherbourg with past and present teaching teams present. The Mayor of Cherbourg, Mr Sam Murray officially opened the building. Mr Murray attended Cherbourg pre-Prep and was taught by the current pre-Prep teacher Ms Matina Jacobs in her first year of teaching.

For further information about the pre-Prep capital works program contact Peter Gockel, Project Coordinator, Capital Projects Unit on 07 3237 0290 or email peter.gockel@deta.qld.gov.au.

Pre-Prep grants

The pre-Prep annual grant of \$1 000 plus \$100.50 per full-time equivalent student has been incorporated into the core general school grant.

For further information about the pre-Prep grants contact Lynn de Lange, Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Education, Projects on 07 3247 3369 or email lynn.de-lange@deta.qld.gov.au.

Teacher Aide allocations for schools

Schools with pre-Prep receive a Day 8 teacher aide allocation. The allocation is based on 30 teacher aide hours per week for each 1.0 FTE pre-Prep teacher.

The pre-Prep teacher aide allocations were included in with the Prep teacher aide allocation.



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Service agreements for non-state school sites

The Department is continuing to work with community child care centres and kindergartens and Catholic Education in the communities of Woorabinda, Napranum, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Hammond Island to partner in the delivery of a pre-Prep program.

Operational guidelines

Work has commenced on the development of operational guidelines for state schools that provide a pre-Prep program. The guidelines are to cover the day-to-day issues and draw on the previous preschool policies.

Opportunity to provide feedback and input into the operational guidelines will be provided early in 2009.

For further information about the pre-Prep operational guidelines contact Lynn de Lange, Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Education Branch on 07 3247 3369 or email lynn.de-lange@deta.qld.gov.au .

Contact

For further information about the pre-Prep in Indigenous Communities project please contact Penny Creamer, Indigenous Education Branch on email penny.creamer@deta.qld.gov.au or telephone 07 3237 0812.