

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1375**

**Asked on 1 November 2006**

Mr Roberts asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Boondall State School in the Nudgee Electorate which was recently awarded a Showcase Award for Excellence for its Early Years Literacy Program – Will he outline how the department's showcase awards and Boondall's literacy program contribute to improved educational outcomes for students?

**ANSWER:**

The Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools are the Queensland Government's highest accolade for state schools. The awards recognise and reward schools that are demonstrating excellence in teaching best practice and significantly improving learning outcomes for students from Prep to Year 12.

In 2006, the Network Ten Showcase Award for Excellence in the Early Phase of Learning was awarded to Boondall State School for the 'ELFs at Work' program which has an emphasis on Early Literacy Fundamentals.

This program focuses on accelerating the early literacy skills of students considered at risk of experiencing literacy difficulties in the future. More than 25 per cent of Boondall's students speak another language at home, with approximately 26 non-English speaking groups represented in the student population.

The program also focuses on building the knowledge of teachers and support staff in order to assist students.

Boondall State School's Year 3 Literacy Test results have improved significantly since the ELF program began with 97.4 percent of all Boondall's Year 3 students now achieving above the national reading benchmark.

Opportunities exist for Boondall's program to be shared across schools, thus contributing to the professional development of teachers and enhancing outcomes for students.

As part of the Queensland Smart State vision we are building an education system that is providing young Queenslanders with the skills and knowledge they need to open doors to a successful future.