

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 162**  
**Asked on 20 February 2007**

MR SIMON FINN MP asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

**QUESTION:**

How is the Government supporting universities to train child safety graduates in the latest child protection techniques?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for his question and for his interest in this important matter. The Department of Child Safety is a major employer of graduates and unfortunately many of the graduates exiting universities and applying for work in the Department of Child safety are not job ready. In order to rectify this seven universities have been given \$50,000 each to undertake a number of activities which include:

1. revise their curriculum to include studies directly relevant to the skill needs of child safety officers;
2. develop new subjects, and redevelop existing subjects, to include a focus on child protection and on working with Indigenous children, families and communities;
3. integrate Indigenous perspectives into subjects offered in university programs that are accepted by the Department of Child Safety for employing graduates; and
4. develop courses that provide students with knowledge and skills that better equip them to effectively deliver child protection services in a statutory environment.

The Department of Child Safety also provides opportunities for university students enrolled in relevant courses to complete structured placements with the department, including completion of parts of the Child Safety Officer Entry Level Training.

The seven universities are:

- University of Queensland;
- Queensland University of Technology;
- Griffith University;
- University of the Sunshine Coast;
- University of Southern Queensland (Hervey Bay Campus);
- University of Central Queensland; and
- James Cook University.

The department is also currently negotiating with the Australian Catholic University (Banyo Campus) to undertake a review of it's curriculum to provide a greater focus on child protection and Indigenous engagement within their courses.