

**Question on Notice
No. 260
Asked on 22 February 2007**

MS CAROLYN MALE MP asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

QUESTION:

What work has been undertaken with universities to ensure that students studying to become child protection workers are being trained with the most up-to-date techniques?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and for her interest in this very important area. In order to boost the skills of people studying to become child safety officers we have recently given seven universities \$50,000 each to:

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;
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 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.