

## Question on Notice

No. 100

Asked on 14 February 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Government's Smart Moves initiative launched in July 2007 which aims to increase student participation in physical activity and improve the quality of that activity, and to support this initiative, 2008 sees the Year of Physical Activity —

Will he detail what services or programs the department is offering to schools who wish to be involved?

ANSWER:

During 2008, my Department will provide a range of initiatives to support Queensland state schools to participate in the *Year of Physical Activity* and implement *Smart Moves*. We will:

- **Organise and host 2008 Year of Physical Activity for Queensland State Schools conferences**

In May 2008, four conferences will be held in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Townsville. The conferences will profile eminent speakers in the fields of health and wellbeing, physical activity, and cognition; will showcase best practice; and provide workshops on a wide range of topics including:

- the importance of physical activity in enhancing children's health and wellbeing
- enhanced student learning through physical activity
- embedding physical activity into the broader curriculum
- leadership in physical activity and the promotion of change in school communities
- the centrality of community partnerships in sustaining lifelong participation in physical activity
- the strategic role of inter-agency initiatives in making a difference to community attitudes about participation in physical activity.

The conferences will also present a diverse range of practical physical activity sessions that offer ideas for inclusion in school physical activity programs. Participants will be asked to 'get up and get moving' in the physical activity sessions.

- **Develop and deliver workshops for primary classroom teachers**

Between July and November, the project will deliver statewide practical activity-based workshops for classroom teachers. The workshops will focus on two themes:

- embedding physical activity in the wider curriculum
- the relationship between physical activity and enhanced student learning.

There will be expert and practical advice for embedding physical activity into the whole curriculum, sharing of school-based best practice and opportunities for teacher networking.

These workshops will be aligned with the *Professional Development Workshops for Teachers* offered by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation. The use of inter-agency networks will be a significant feature of this project.

- **Develop and disseminate a regional professional development package**

A package will be created for schools to initiate their own professional development activities to support the implementation of the *Smart Moves* initiatives. The regional professional development package will include conference-associated podcasts of speakers and examples of best practice, as well as a range of ideas and activities for easy implementation by teachers.

- **Develop and implement on-line professional development**

An interactive, on-line, problem-based learning professional development module about physical activity will be available by June 2008. The module will use practical scenarios to develop knowledge and understanding of the safety and organisational aspects of physical activity, student motivation and the selection of age appropriate activities. Video footage of students participating in physical activity will also enrich the problem solving basis of the module.

- **Publish Physical Activity Tips on the website**

The Department's website will contain tips on how students, parents and teachers can be physically active at school, home and the community. Students, parents and teachers will also be encouraged to send in their tips relating to a monthly theme for a chance to win prizes.

- **Promote a Move-a-thon for state schools**

Primary school children will be encouraged to participate in a six-week Move-a-thon during the third school term (July to September). The aim of the Move-a-thon is to raise awareness of the need for and benefits of physical activity.

- **Support Principal for a Day**

Schools will be encouraged to select a physically active community role model to act as Principal for a Day to support the *Year of Physical Activity*.

- **Feature My Favourite Teacher entries**

Nominated entries for My Favourite Teacher will focus on teachers who encourage their class to be physically active.