

## Question on Notice

No. 222

Asked on 27 February 2008

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to several media reports in January (ie Gympie Times 15 January 2008) where he was quoted as saying, "Feedback gathered in those [Prep] surveys has helped fine tune the delivery of Prep for 2008", over and above what was already committed for the full implementation of Prep and as a direct result of the surveys—

- (1) What specifically has been fine tuned for Prep's implementation in 2008?
- (2) How much is this fine tuning expected to cost and how much has it already cost?
- (3) What additional resources has this fine tuning resulted in (broken down by type)?
- (4) Will he outline any additional surveys expected to be circulated this year and when fine tuning from these will be implemented?

### ANSWER:

Prep reinforces the Bligh Government's commitment to education as the most important advantage we can give to our children. The implementation of Prep in state schools was monitored throughout 2007 to report on progress in its introductory year, and identify opportunities for improving delivery in 2008. The monitoring showed us that, systemically, the introduction of Prep went well in 2007. Findings pointed to the importance of good organisation and management at the school level in assisting the smooth delivery of Prep. In the case of facilities, some Prep buildings required minor works to be completed after occupation, such as installing phone or computer cabling.

Results of the monitoring were provided to regions, districts and schools, and additional information was also available on the Education Queensland intranet to assist school operations for 2008. For example:

#### School planning, organisation and management

- organising Prep parent interviews before the start of the school year
- timetabling opportunities for early years staff to plan together
- allocating resources in the early part of the year to support the transition of children to school

#### Ongoing professional development for teachers and teacher aides

- identifying topics for district or cluster-based professional development events
- noting teachers' interest in visiting other Prep classrooms and facilitating such visits
- managing teacher/teacher aide networks

#### Curriculum

- clarifying for teachers and parents the department's expectations about assessment and reporting in Prep.

Improvements to Prep delivery in 2008 are occurring at the individual school level through targeted school management and operations shown to be supportive of smooth Prep implementation. These have not resulted in the deployment of additional resources and costs have been met within the existing budget.

The consultative processes for monitoring Prep in Term 1 2008 do not involve large-scale surveys of the type employed in 2007. If the results of the monitoring point to a need for making further adjustments, these will be managed in a timely way.