

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1844**

**Asked on 24 November 2009**

**Ms Nelson Carr** asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson) —

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the department's reforms to kindergarten teaching—  
How will the future of Queensland children be improved particularly in the 37 early childhood centres in Mundingburra?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for her question.

Following the overwhelming success of Prep, the Queensland Government is committed to ensuring all Queensland children have access to a kindergarten program delivered by a qualified teacher by 2014, to give them the flying start they deserve.

A child's participation in a quality early childhood education program lays the foundation for their future success in learning and life. In order to ensure all Queensland children can enjoy the lifelong benefits kindergarten provides, the Queensland and Australian Governments will invest up to \$889 million to deliver universal access to kindergarten.

In March 2009, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland announced an investment of \$321 million to provide 240 extra kindergarten services across the State by 2014. The Townsville Education District, which includes the electorate of Mundingburra, has been notionally allocated an extra 18 kindergarten services providing up to 800 extra kindergarten places for local children.

In October 2009, the Queensland Government released details of a new kindergarten funding scheme. The new funding scheme will support new and existing kindergarten services and ensure more funds are directed to children and families in areas of greatest need. For the first time, the Queensland Government will provide funding to approved long day care services to deliver a kindergarten program by an early childhood teacher. The new kindergarten funding scheme will be gradually introduced from early 2010, with up to 100 long day care services participating in the pilot program. The feedback received during the pilot will help shape the ongoing roll-out of kindergarten programs in long day care.

We know children's participation in quality early education sets them on the path for later learning success at school and enhanced life opportunities beyond school.

Our commitment to universal access recognises the vital role of early education programs in nurturing children's love of learning. It also highlights the important role early childhood professionals play in supporting parents and families to participate in their child's learning.

The commitment and professionalism of teachers working with children are key factors in the provision of quality early childhood education. By 2014, all Queensland children attending an approved kindergarten program will be taught by a four year qualified early childhood education teacher or a registered teacher with early childhood qualifications.

Queensland's kindergarten initiative includes the development of a kindergarten learning guideline which will be trialled during 2010 and implemented in all existing and new funded services from 2011. Aligned with the national Early Years Learning Framework, this guideline will provide direction to teachers about the development and delivery of their

kindergarten program, ensuring all Queensland children have access to the same high-quality early childhood education regardless of where they live or the program's setting.

The kindergarten guideline will link to the Early Years Curriculum Guideline used in the Preparatory year to strengthen continuity of learning between early education and care settings and schools.

All Queensland children and their families, whether they live in Mundingburra or any other area in Queensland, will benefit from this initiative. It will ensure all children can participate in a focused play-based education program that strengthens their social skills, early literacy and numeracy knowledge, communication and problem-solving skills.