

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 164**  
**Asked on 9 March 2011**

**Ms Grace** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Ready Reader program—  
What training is being provided to parents and what benefits will this program have to parents and students in my electorate of Brisbane Central?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and her interest in the Bligh Government's commitment to supporting Queensland children.

The Parent Ready Reader program commenced across the state in 2011 and is an addition to the highly successful volunteer Ready Reader program, which was a key element of the State Government's education discussion paper, *A Flying Start for Queensland Children*.

The two-and-a-half hour parent program is aimed towards training parents and carers of children in Prep to Year 3.

The program has many benefits and gives parents:

- examples of how to build their child's literacy skills in everyday life - acknowledging and reinforcing that parents are their child's first teacher;
- an understanding of the reading process and opportunities for them to learn strategies to support their child when reading at home; and
- an understanding of why particular strategies and practices are important by using demonstrations, practical exercises and opportunities for discussion.

By making reading enjoyable and relaxing, the program aims to help students become more comfortable with books and develop positive attitudes towards literacy. Students' confidence and sense of achievement can transfer into the classroom and make a positive difference to how a child feels about themselves as a reader.

In the electorate of Brisbane Central the first parent program was recently held on 11 March 2011 at New Farm State School. It attracted 27 parents. This program will be offered at other times throughout the year, giving more parents opportunities to access the training. In addition, the Queensland Ready Reader volunteer training will be provided in June 2011, adding to the volunteers already placed in a number of schools in the electorate.