



## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: MC/PG – TF/10/16407 – DOC/10/89955

20 JUL 2010



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2010 opposing the proposed move of Year 7 primary to secondary education. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your message have been noted.

This matter has been referred to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training for consideration and reply direct to you.

Please be assured that Minister Wilson will give your concerns his full consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence

**B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Training.**

**By direction. For your information and direct reply, please. Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.**

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone** +61 7 3224 4500  
**Facsimile** +61 7 3221 3631  
**Email** ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au  
**Website** www.thepremier.qld.gov.au



**Queensland**  
Government

**Nadia Cecil**

**From:** The Premier  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 July 2010 8:33 AM  
**To:**   
**Subject:** Message for

Digitised?	YES	NO
If digitised, this is now an ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT Enter ALL DATA IN PPM		
6 JUL 2010	Date Received in DPC	
Document No:	Doc10/86110	
File No:		
Tracking Folder No.	TF10/16907	

Thank you for your email which has been received by the Office of the Premier. Please be assured your correspondence will be actioned as is appropriate. Should it be required, a formal response will be sent to you in due course. We appreciate the time you have taken to contact our office.

Regards

Ministerial Officer  
 Office of the Premier

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email

**From:**   
**Sent:** Monday, 5 July 2010 6:12 PM  
**To:** Premiers - SMTP  
**Subject:** Fw: secondary school

----- Original Message -----

**From:**   
**To:** [premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 05, 2010 2:51 PM  
**Subject:** secondary school

To Anna Bligh,

I am writing this letter to complain bitterly about sending year 7's to secondary school in 2014. We will have a daughter in year 7 that year, and as we live 75kms to the nearest school and no school bus we would have to send her to a boarding school 1 year earlier. We think she would be too young to become independant from her family for most of the year. She would also be travelling for 500kms on a public bus by herself and I think that would be dangerous for a 12 year old child. She has a younger brother who would be on a property with no other children for playmates for three years rather than two which would make him very lonely. I know we will have difficulties in being able to afford another year of boarding school fees. I think that bush children are disadvantaged enough with distance education, lack of access to teaching resources and isolation without making the big leap into mainstream schools more difficult. I also think that secondary school is a big step for children socially and an extra year to be a child is beneficial.

Regards

6/07/2010



5 AUG 2010

Office of the  
Minister for Education and Training

[Redacted]  
Email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for the copy of your email dated 5 July 2010 to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland, regarding proposals in the *A Flying Start for Queensland Children: Education Green Paper for public consultation*. The Premier has also forwarded your email of the same date to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, for direct reply. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

I acknowledge the significant challenges that the Flying Start proposal to move Year 7 into secondary school would place on your family and other families in the rural and remote areas of Queensland.

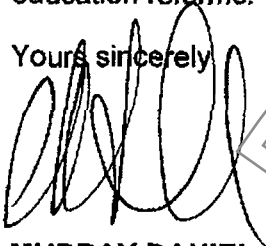
Please be assured that your concerns are being taken very seriously and I have asked the Department of Education and Training (the Department) to record your input as part of the Flying Start consultation process.

As part of this process, the Department is investigating local circumstances and problems for students, families and schools in rural and remote areas. This is to identify all issues associated with the impact of the proposed move of Year 7, and the types of assistance and support that would be needed.

Should you require additional information, I invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, by email at [andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au) or on telephone (07) 3237 0614.

Thank you for bringing your views on this matter to the Minister's attention. Your advice is appreciated and will be considered in the development of the Government's policy on education reforms.

Yours sincerely



**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/175104 ET/10/3768

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

**FRENCH, Corinne**

---

**From:** MOORE, Erika  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 March 2010 5:34 PM  
**To:** 'Julie-Ann.Campbell@ministerial.qld.gov.au'  
**Subject:** FW: ADVANCE COPY: TRIM Brief or Question on Notice Response : 10/57756 : A Flying Start - Moving Year 7 to secondary  
**Attachments:** A Flying Start - Moving Year 7 to secondary.DOC; Compare Age Table VERSION B (2 col).pdf

Sorry forgot the flyer now attached.

**Erika Moore**  
**A/Executive Correspondence Coordinator**  
**Office of the Chief Officer**  
**Office for Early Childhood Education and Care**  
**Department of Education and Training**

**Telephone: +61 7 3234 1471** [Internal extension: 41471]  
Floor 22 | Education House | 30 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000  
Email: [erika.moore@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:erika.moore@deta.qld.gov.au)



Office for Early Childhood Education and Care

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**From:** MOORE, Erika  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 5:33 PM  
**To:** 'Julie-Ann.Campbell@ministerial.qld.gov.au'  
**Subject:** ADVANCE COPY: TRIM Brief or Question on Notice Response : 10/57756 : A Flying Start - Moving Year 7 to secondary

Hi Julie-Ann

Zea requested an advance copy of the attached briefing be forwarded to you for information along with a copy of the flyer "Comparison of age ranges associated with the introduction of Prep.

Kind regards

**Erika Moore**  
**A/Executive Correspondence Coordinator**  
**Office of the Chief Officer**  
**Office for Early Childhood Education and Care**  
**Department of Education and Training**

13/09/2010



**Telephone: +61 7 3234 1471** [Internal extension: 41471]  
Floor 22 | Education House | 30 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000  
Email: [erika.moore@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:erika.moore@deta.qld.gov.au)



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RTI Act by DET

## Comparison of age ranges associated with the introduction of Prep

Year	Last cohort prior to Prep (born 1 Jan 2001 – 31 Dec 2001)		First Prep full cohort (born 1 July 2002 – 30 June 2003)	
	Year Level	Age Range *	Year Level	Age Range *
2006	Preschool	4 – 5 years		
2007	Year 1	5 – 6 years		
2008	Year 2	6 – 7 years	Prep	4 years 6 months – 5 years 6 months
2009	Year 3	7 – 8 years	Year 1	5 years 6 months – 6 years 6 months
2010	Year 4	8 – 9 years	Year 2	6 years 6 months – 7 years 6 months
2011	Year 5	9 – 10 years	Year 3	7 years 6 months – 8 years 6 months
2012	Year 6	10 – 11 years	Year 4	8 years 6 months – 9 years 6 months
2013	Year 7	11 – 12 years	Year 5	9 years 6 months – 10 years 6 months
2014	Year 8	12 – 13 years	Year 6	10 years 6 months – 11 years 6 months
2015			Year 7	11 years 6 months – 12 years 6 months
2016			Year 8	12 years 6 months – 13 years 6 months

Cohorts entering Prep from 2009 (ie, Year 1 from 2010) will have the same ages at each year level as the first Prep full cohort.

\*Ages calculated as at the start of each calendar year.

Ages shown are the expected age ranges based on enrolment guidelines. Actual ages will vary from those shown.



## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: SocPol/LM – TF/10/2761 – DOC/10/16530

11 MAR 2010

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3224 4500  
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

Dear

Thank you for your email of 8 February 2010 concerning the Government's proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school.

I appreciate your views on the placement of Year 7, and the concerns you have about children growing up too quickly, and missing out on opportunities to consolidate their skills and build their confidence in environments they find familiar and safe.

These are legitimate views, and I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, so that it can be considered as part of the response to the discussion paper, *A Flying Start for Queensland Children*.

The first full Prep cohort will be Year 7 in 2015, when more than half of the students will turn 13 during the course of Year 7. Although the 2014 Year 7s are not going to be quite as old as the 2015 Year 7s, they will be older than their predecessors at the same stage of schooling. They will have had eight full years in a primary setting. They will be learning the national curriculum — in English, Maths, Science and History — which will be fully implemented by 2013, and will benefit from specialist teachers in specialist settings.

B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Training.

By direction. For your information.

Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.

**M Weaver**

Director

Executive Correspondence



**Queensland**  
Government

**E-mail Message**

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**From:** DETA, Correspondence  
[EX:/O=EDUCATIONQLD/OU=CENTRAL/CN=CENTRAL/CN=CEXE0]  
**To:** [REDACTED] [SMTP: [REDACTED]]  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** 7/05/2010 at 1:06 PM  
**Received:** 7/05/2010 at 1:06 PM  
**Subject:** Signed version- [REDACTED]

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**Attachments:** 10\_104778\_ SIGNED VERSION PA response to [REDACTED] re\_  
moving Year 7 - referral from Premier.pdf

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<<10\_104778\_ SIGNED VERSION PA response to [REDACTED] re moving Year 7 -  
referral from Premier.pdf>>

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to the Minister. My formal response is enclosed.

Regards

MURRAY DANIEL  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

If you are still not able to open the attachment, please contact the Department  
on telephone (07) 3237 1000, email to DETA.Correspondence@det.qld.gov.au or  
postal address PO Box 15033 City East QLD 4002 for assistance.

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**Queensland  
Government**

07 MAY 2010

Office of the  
**Minister for Education and Training**

Dear

I refer to your email dated 8 February 2010 to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland, regarding the Government's proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school. The Premier has referred your letter to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, for consideration. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Your response to the Government's proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school is appreciated. The Department of Education and Training has recorded your concerns and ideas and they will be considered along with feedback received from the wider Queensland community on the *A Flying Start for Queensland Children: Education Green Paper* for public consultation.

The welfare of Year 7 children entering secondary school is a paramount consideration. The Department is working on the assessment of what will be needed if Year 7 is moved to secondary school. Part of this work is investigating middle schooling approaches to create learning environments that will be appropriate to the age of students in the lower years of secondary school.

The basis behind the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school is multifaceted. Year 7 students will be older. The introduction of the Prep year means that, if no further changes are made, from 2014 children will spend eight full years in primary school. Also, in 2008 the Queensland Government raised the compulsory school starting age by six months. As a result, in 2015 at least half of Year 7 children will turn 13 by the end of Year 7.

You have asked about international evidence concerning Year 7 in high schools. Many educationally high-performing countries, such as Canada, Finland, Singapore and the UK include Year 7 in secondary school. Importantly, the international evidence also suggests that the success of the placing Year 7 in secondary school can be enhanced by the quality of the educational experiences that these students receive.

The first phase of the Australian national curriculum commences in 2011 and will be in place by 2013. The Queensland Government wants to ensure that Queensland's Year 7 students have every opportunity to benefit from the new national curriculum, with similar access to specialist teachers and facilities as their counterparts in most other states. In secondary schools, subject specialists can help to ensure a depth of learning in areas including the sciences, history, languages, arts and technology.

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3237 1000**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335**  
**Email** [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Website** [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

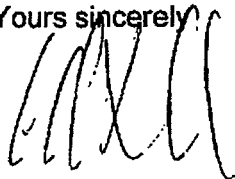


One of the primary purposes of the Flying Start Green Paper feedback is to ensure that all impacts of moving Year 7 to secondary school are known and considered before the Government makes a final decision.

I invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, on telephone (07) 3237 0614 or by email at [andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au), should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for bringing your views on this matter to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely,



**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/74084 ET/10/1385

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RTI Act by DET





# Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich

**Electorate Office**

125 Brisbane Road

**Postal Address**

PO Box 98, Booval Q 4304

**Telephone**

07 3202 3452

**Facsimile**

07 3202 4778

**Email**

ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

**Web**

www.rachelnolanmp.com

11 March 2010

Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Geoff

I recently visited Bethany Primary School, a small and very well regarded Lutheran school of 195 pupils in Ipswich.

During my visit [redacted] raised his concerns with me in relation to the current proposal to move year 7 students to high school from 2014. While [redacted] is aware of the State's reasoning, he has a number of concerns regarding the school's educational and financial viability in a changed environment.

I have a lot of time for this school community and ask that their viewpoint be properly considered in current deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Nolan MP  
Member for Ipswich

Released under the  
RTI Act 2009



**Queensland  
Government**

**Hon Geoff Wilson MP**  
Member for Ferny Grove

**17 MAY 2010**

**Minister for Education and Training**

The Honourable Rachel Nolan MP  
Minister for Transport  
Member for Ipswich  
PO Box 98  
BOOVAL QLD 4304

Dear Minister

Thank you for your personal representations dated 11 March 2010 on behalf of [redacted] of Bethany Lutheran Primary School regarding proposals in the discussion paper, *A Flying Start for Queensland Children: Education Green Paper for public consultation*.

On 15 April, [redacted] made a detailed submission to the *Flying Start* consultation process. [redacted] submission outlines the estimated impact the loss of the Year 7 cohort may have on the financial and educational viability of Bethany Lutheran Primary School. The submission has been recorded and acknowledged by the Department of Education and Training.

As outlined in the Education Green Paper, preliminary costings indicate that capital funding of between \$300 and \$350 million over the next four years might be required to implement the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary. There may also be recurrent costs associated with employing specialist teachers, purchasing text books and other items.

The Department is working to quantify the investment required for this change and the local impacts that may result, taking advice and submissions from stakeholders. As part of this, the Department will consult with the Association of Independent Schools Queensland to identify effects on non-state schools. Support for the non-state schooling sectors to make the change will be considered by the Government in due course. The Government will publish a policy paper later in 2010 setting out the next steps.

It is important for all Queenslanders to have their say on the *Flying Start* Green Paper and provide feedback to ensure all the impacts of the initiatives proposed are known and considered before the Government makes a final decision.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Principal Advisor, Mr Murray Daniel, on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

Thank you for your continued support for the *Flying Start* public consultation process and for bringing Mr Schiller's views and concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF WILSON MP**  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/95117 ET/10/1994

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

## Chloe Moss

---

**From:** Ferny Grove Electorate Office [Ferny.Grove@parliament.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 February 2010 9:17 AM  
**To:** Chloe Moss  
**Subject:** Non constituent corro - FW: Grade 7 move to high school

Hi Chloe  
As per subject line, please see below

Kind Regards

Gabrielle Stewart  
A/Electorate Officer  
Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
State Member for Ferny Grove  
PO Box 102  
FERNY HILLS DC QLD 4055  
Tel: (07) 3851 1570  
Fax: (07) 3851 1261

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 February 2010 10:24 PM  
**To:** Ferny Grove Electorate Office  
**Subject:** Grade 7 move to high school

Dear Geoff,

Why, why, why? What is the rationale behind this stupid idea and what's it all going to cost? It will just waste some more of our precious money - as if the government hasn't already done enough of that.

I'm truly angry about this - if it goes ahead I won't be voting Labor again and that's not an idle threat. I have yet to hear one single explanation about how this will help anyone. How will the seventh graders benefit from doing the same work, the same curriculum in a different setting? Please tell me how this will improve the standard of education in this state. It's already so abysmal, can't the money that this will eventually cost be spent on improving the quality of teachers; something that may really have an impact on our shockingly low standard of education. All this will do is introduce even younger children into the more adult and often undesirable world of teenagers. More opportunities to be bullied, as well. With bullying such an issue these days why increase the opportunities for it to occur.

I know plenty of other people who think the way I do.

Nothing gets talked about or discussed at length any more - just any old stupid idea gets rushed through before anyone can do anything about it.

When it's mentioned in the media, I never hear any reason for why it's being done.

For god's sake do something real about the woeful state of our children's education instead of ridiculous, pointless gestures like this, that won't improve anything. I'm so disappointed in you all - you show so little common sense.

Yours sincerely,  
[REDACTED] - very concerned parent.

23/02/2010

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23/02/2010

**FRENCH, Corinne**

---

**From:** DETA, Correspondence  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2010 5:24 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 87471\_ SIGNED VERSION Response to [REDACTED] about Year 7 into secondary school proposal.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

**Attachments:** 87471\_ SIGNED VERSION Response to [REDACTED] about Year 7 into secondary school proposal



87471\_ SIGNED  
VERSION Response..

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to the Minister. My formal response is enclosed.

Regards

MURRAY DANIEL  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

**If you are still not able to open the attachment, please contact the Department on telephone (07) 3237 1000, email to [DETA.Correspondence@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:DETA.Correspondence@det.qld.gov.au) or postal address PO Box 15033 City East QLD 4002 for assistance.**



**Queensland  
Government**

14 APR 2010

Office of the  
Minister for Education and Training

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 18 February 2010 regarding the Queensland Government's proposal to move Year 7 into secondary school. The Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The rationale behind the Year 7 into secondary school proposal is multifaceted. In 2007, the Queensland Government introduced the Prep Year and, in 2008, increased the compulsory school starting age by six months. This means that, if no further changes are made, from 2014 children will spend eight full years in primary school. In 2015, more than half of Year 7 children will turn 13 while in Year 7.

In most Australian states, Year 7 is the first year of high school where young people have access to specialist teachers and specialist facilities for learning. In secondary schools, subject specialists help ensure the depth of learning in areas including the sciences, history, languages, arts and technology. Facilities in secondary schools, such as science laboratories, engage students in more complex, hands-on environments than those able to be provided in the generalist primary school setting.

Furthermore, the Australian national curriculum will commence from 2011 and the first phase will be in place by 2013. We need to ensure that Queensland's Year 7 students have every opportunity to benefit from the new national curriculum, with similar access to specialist teachers and facilities as most other states and territories already provide.

Moving Year 7 to secondary will mean Year 7 students will have access to specialist teachers and facilities. Preliminary costings indicate that the change will require capital funding of \$300 million to \$350 million over the next four years.

Strong school discipline is imperative to the success of schooling. For the state school system, the Government has already announced tougher powers for principals and stronger behaviour standards for students.

There is room for improved behaviour management programs. On 2 February 2010, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland, and the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP launched the Education Green Paper *A Flying Start for Queensland Children* for public consultation website. The issues you have raised are relevant to the Government's proposal to establish a single, consolidated standards authority to set and monitor high educational standards and the planned review of teacher training courses. One of the Flying Start consultation survey questions asks for the public to share their views on ways we can ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning.

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158



In relation to your concerns of increased bullying, the Department of Education and Training is committed to promoting safe and supportive learning environments for all students, and does not tolerate any form of bullying. All students and parents are encouraged to raise any concerns they have with their school principal immediately so that action can be taken to address the problem.

One of the primary purposes of the Flying Start consultation is to hear from families, schools and other stakeholders as to how we can help young people make the transition to secondary school and identify all developmental issues.

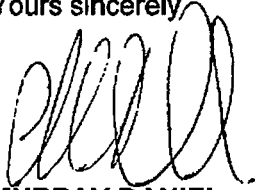
The Department has recorded your input into the consultation process, and is currently collating and analysing all feedback received from the Queensland community. After the public consultation has concluded, all input will be considered and the Government will publish a policy paper setting out the next steps later in 2010.

Should you wish to provide further input into the public consultation process, I would encourage you to attend a public consultation forum, complete the online survey, or email, post or fax a completed survey found at the back of the discussion paper to the Department. Please visit the Flying Start website online at [www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/), for further information.

Please feel free to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, on telephone (07) 3237 0614, if you require additional information.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely



**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/64079 ET/10/57576

Released under  
RTI Act by DET

## Chloe Moss

---

**From:** Ferny Grove Electorate Office [Ferny.Grove@parliament.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2010 4:32 PM  
**To:** Chloe Moss  
**Subject:** Non constituent corro FW: year 7 Secondary proposal

Hi Chloe  
As per subject line please see below

Cheers

Kind Regards

Gabrielle Stewart  
A/Electorate Officer  
Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
State Member for Ferny Grove  
PO Box 102  
FERNY HILLS DC QLD 4055  
Tel: (07) 3851 1570  
Fax: (07) 3851 1261

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2010 4:29 PM  
**To:** Ferny Grove Electorate Office  
**Subject:** year 7 Secondary proposal

Dear Minister,

This proposal for Secondary Year 7 is an absolute waste of money!

I thought Qld was broke?

Change the curriculum, not the school room location.

Kids do three years compulsory LOTE in Primary and cant speak a sentence of another language at the end of it. This is ridiculous.

Do LOTE for a year and teach em sumfing useful for the other two!

And my local schools do not teach kids computer skills in Primary and Years 8 and 9. I have been asking them to do so for 5 years, but they refuse. That's just ridiculous too.

Please spend the money on fixing these curriculum problems, not just changing the street address of the Year 7 classroom.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

2/02/2010

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2/02/2010



## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: MC/HC - TF/10/16270 - DOC/10/87378

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3224 4500  
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2010 concerning year levels for high school. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your message have been noted.

As you may be aware, the Queensland Government has initiated A Flying Start for Children discussion paper which is intended to inform the final Government policy on this issue, to be released later in the year.

Accordingly, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training for his consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing your views to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence

**B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Training.**

**By direction. For your information and any necessary  
Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.**

*M Klatt*

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence

**Nadia Cecil**

**From:** The Premier  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 July 2010 3:47 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Message for [REDACTED]

SEARCHED	YES	NO
INDEXED	YES	NO
SERIALIZED	YES	NO
FILED	YES	NO
- 5 JUL 2010		
Doc/10/185392		
AF/10/16270		


Thank you for your email which has been received by the Office of the Premier. Please be assured your correspondence will be actioned as is appropriate. Should it be required, a formal response will be sent to you in due course. We appreciate the time you have taken to contact our office.

Regards

Ministerial Officer

Office of the Premier

Tomorrow's Queensland: strong, green, smart, healthy and fair - [www.towardq2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardq2.qld.gov.au)

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 July 2010 7:55 AM  
**To:** Premiers - SMTP  
**Subject:** re-year 7 as a high school year.

Dear Premier,

I am encouraged by your request for opinions from the community as regards this issue. This issue will be placed in differing socio-economic and cultural contexts. You are no doubt aware that in some private schools this has already been adopted-with middle school being years 7,8,9 and high school years 10,11,12. My son attends one of these and is a year 10 student. I think it would be worthwhile discussing this with Principals and staff of these schools and in doing so ask them to objectively compare the 'old' with the new. Also do a survey with all High top and small country school Principals and staff to see what they perceive as the costs and benefits of this system.

For families living away from access to high schools or senior secondary school this will create difficulties. In some rural towns a high top (to year 10) exists. With the advent of senior school being years 10,11,12 parents will feel pressured to send their children in year 10 to achieve best results and the high tops will lose their year 10 students and possibly a teacher. Financially for some of these families this will mean greater costs- a child at year 10 will most likely need new uniform by year 12 due to growth as well as an additional 12 months school and boarding fees. Families lucky enough to access ICPA funding will be better off but will still be looking at possibly sending their child/children away 12 months earlier than previously.

Each family makes choices as they see right.

I believe that year 7 should remain a primary school level due to the physiological, emotional and psychological changes that in most children occur in their teens. I feel the year 7s are a valuable part of the primary school cohort and do not see why they should be pushed earlier into a high-school setting. Again the small country schools and 1 teacher school will lose pupils if year 7 becomes the beginning of high school. Parents choosing to commence their children at a high school in year 7 will take them out of the little local school and board them so that they receive all their high school education from the same school. I know a number of local parents from my community who have made this choice so that their children do not have their secondary education disturbed part way through-they send them away at year 8 to glean the benefits of the full 5 years of secondary school.

2/07/2010

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Released under the  
RTI Act by DET

2/07/2010





5 AUG 2010



**Queensland  
Government**

Office of the  
**Minister for Education and Training**

Dear

I refer to your email dated 2 July 2010 regarding the Education Green Paper: *A Flying Start for Queensland Children* to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland. The Premier has forwarded your email to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, for consideration. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

As you point out, many Queensland schools already include Year 7 with secondary year levels, including P-10 and P-12 state colleges and many non-state schools. What these schools do well is to make sure that Year 7 students are looked after and are carefully inducted into secondary education. Many of them adopt "middle school" approaches, and bring Years 7, 8 and 9 into a "school within a school" that provides the care and support needed in the developing years for young people.

Public consultation on the Flying Start Green Paper has shown significant support for models of schooling that are able to provide support for young adolescents in a secondary environment.

I note your concerns about the proposed move of Year 7 to secondary school, including the potential impact on parents, children and small primary schools in rural and remote areas. These issues have also emerged from the Flying Start Green Paper public consultation process along with issues about the social, emotional and psychological readiness of Year 7 students for the transition to secondary school, and are being carefully considered by the Department of Education and Training.

The Department is investigating local circumstances for students, families and schools in rural and remote areas to identify issues associated with the impact of the proposed move of Year 7 so that the Government can make an informed decision about the proposed move. Learnings from schools that already include Year 7 with secondary year levels will also inform the Government's consideration of this issue.

Should you wish to discuss these matters further, I invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, on telephone (07) 3237 0614 or by email [andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au).

Thank you for raising your perspectives about the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school. Your ideas are welcome and will be considered in the development of the Government's policy on education reform.

Yours sincerely

**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/180243 ET/10/3945

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 City East Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

## URGENT MINISTERIAL CAUCUS LIAISON REQUEST

Requested by: Clinton Nottingham, Departmental Liaison Officer (323 70875) (HJ)

**To:** EQ

**Subject:** National Curriculum Year 7 to High school move

**Date/time required:** 3:00pm Tuesday 20 July 2010

**Today's date:** 19 July 2010

---

The Minister's office has requested dot points in response to the information below.

Please contain your response under this request and move in TRIM to my position by the date/time required.

Thank you for your assistance in providing this information.

### REQUEST:

Regarding the proposal to move Year 7 to high school, please identify how this transition will affect the the implementation of the national curriculum.

#### Preparation Instructions

- ① Approved response should be returned to the requesting Departmental Liaison Officer, who will then process the response. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are responses to be sent directly to the Minister's office.
- ② If this brief requires additional information from another branch/directorate within the department, please liaise with the appropriate person to submit one consolidated response.

## National Curriculum Year 7 to High school move

### REQUEST:

*Regarding the proposal to move Year 7 to high school, please identify how this transition will affect the implementation of the national curriculum.*

### Response

- Reasons given by the government for moving Year 7 to secondary school include:
  - Year 7 students have much to gain from experiencing a range of different teaching styles and expertise.
  - Teachers with specialist discipline knowledge can help Year 7 students develop depth of understanding and skill in particular areas.
  - Year 7 students have a better chance of benefiting from the national curriculum if they have access to specialist teachers and facilities in the secondary school.
- Queensland schools will implement the K(Prep) -10 Australian Curriculum in English, mathematics and science from 2012, and history from 2012. This will be followed by implementation of Phase 2 and 3 in Prep - 10. ACARA is to develop Phase 2 learning areas by 2011 and Phase 3 learning areas by 2012.
- The proposed shift of Year 7 into secondary schools is to be from 2014. Some schools are already offering Year 7 in secondary school.
- Current considerations and planning for the proposed shift of Year 7 into secondary school, acknowledge that the best predictor of student progress in the middle years is "the quality of teaching and learning and what happens within the classroom"<sup>1</sup>.
- The pre-service teacher preparation, professional development and school leadership necessary for a successful shift of Year 7 into secondary schools will reinforce and complement the focus on implementation of the Australian Curriculum. It will promote:
  - strong content knowledge and pedagogical knowledge specific to the Australian Curriculum.
  - the capabilities to develop students' literacy, numeracy and ICT skills – as part of the teaching and learning within the subjects taught.
- The Australian Curriculum for Year 7 is written for delivery in either primary or secondary schools. However, it requires a greater level of disciplinary knowledge in Year 7 than is now commonly expected in Queensland. Increasing teachers' disciplinary knowledge will be a focus of support provided to Queensland schools to implement the Australian Curriculum.
- The Australian Curriculum for the arts (Phase 2), and for technologies, economics/business and civics and citizenship (Phase 3) is to be written in two-year bands – rather than year-by-year; with Years 7 and 8 as one of these bands.
- The government's proposal to move Year 7 into secondary schooling provides an opportunity for a renewed focus on effective curriculum delivery in Years 7

<sup>1</sup> Hill Peter W and Russell V Jean 1999 *Systemic, whole-school reform of the middle years of schooling* Centre for Applied Educational Research The University of Melbourne p 16

and 8, which will be of particular importance in implementing the Australian Curriculum.

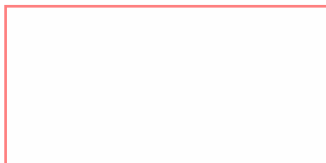
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## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: MC/SDB – TF/10/12304 – DOC/10/67413

- 4 JUN 2010



Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 19 May 2010 opposing the proposed move of Year 7 primary to secondary education. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your correspondence have been noted.

This matter has been referred to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP Minister for Education and Training for consideration and reply direct to you.

Please be assured that the Minister will give your concerns his full consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

**M Weaver**

Director

Executive Correspondence

**B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Training.**

**By direction. For your information and direct reply please.  
Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.**

**M Weaver**

Director

Executive Correspondence

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3224 4500**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631**  
**Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au**  
**Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au**



**Queensland  
Government**

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

The Premier of Queensland,  
Mrs Anna Bligh, MP  
P.O. Box 15185,  
CITY EAST, Qld. 4002

Dear Mrs Bligh,

I am writing to you with concerns regarding the proposal to introduce Year 7 into Queensland State High Schools.

My daughter, [redacted] was in the first prep year in Queensland and she will be impacted greatly by this proposal if it goes ahead.

She will be in Year 7 in 2014, and will be one of the first students to attend high school in Year 7.

I am not in favour of this proposal as I see Year 7 as a vital year of growth for a student as they take on more responsibilities and are given leadership roles in their final year of primary schooling.

These roles as school leaders aid in the maturity of the child which ultimately assists with their smooth transition the following year into high school. (I have experienced this first hand with my other two older children)

The proposal of sending the 2014 cohort of year 7 students into high school would rob these children of any leadership roles until they are in Year 12, and by then many may have left secondary schooling.

Isn't there enough pressure on children to grow up fast already, without the added burden of them having to deal with the issues of 16 and 17 years old (eg sex, drugs etc) when they are only 11 and 12 years old.

I think your Government should save themselves the multi millions of dollars that this proposal would cost in infrastructure and staffing and spend it more wisely on making schools safer for our children, eg added security in school grounds which may help prevent the tragedies we have witnessed earlier this year.

I hope the issues I have raised will be considered by your Government before any decision is made on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Digitised?	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
If digitised, this is now an ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT Enter ALL DATA in TRIM			
24 MAY 2010		Date Received in DPC	
Document No:		200/10/62380	
File No:			
Tracking Folder No:		TF/10/12304	





29 JUN 2010



**Queensland  
Government**

Office of the  
**Minister for Education and Training**

Dear

I refer to your letter dated 19 May 2010 to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland, regarding the Education Green Paper, *A Flying Start for Queensland Children* and the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school. The Premier has forwarded your letter to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, for consideration. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

I note your concerns about leadership opportunities for your daughter,  that may be lost if the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school in 2014 proceeds. I can assure you that, if the proposal does proceed, primary schools will work at the local level to ensure that students in both graduating cohorts have opportunities for leadership, and support for the transition to secondary.

The rationale behind the proposal to move Year 7 into secondary school is multifaceted. In 2007, the Queensland Government introduced the Prep Year and, in 2008, increased the compulsory school starting age by six months. This means that, if no further changes are made, from 2014 children will spend eight full years in primary school.

In most Australian states, Year 7 is the first year of high school, where young people have access to specialist teachers and specialist facilities for learning. In secondary schools, subject specialists help ensure depth of learning in such areas as the sciences, history, languages, arts and technology. Facilities in secondary schools engage students in more complex, hands-on environments than those able to be provided in the generalist primary school setting.

The Australian national curriculum will also be gradually introduced from 2011–2013. Phase one of the curriculum, which includes English, mathematics, science and history, will be implemented by 2014. Queensland's Year 7 students must be given every opportunity to benefit from the new national curriculum, through access to specialist teachers and facilities.

Most other states in Australia and many high-performing education systems around the world include Year 7 in secondary school. In Queensland, many schools already include Year 7 with secondary year levels, including P–10 and P–12 state colleges and many non-state schools. These students are younger in Year 7 than the students in 2014 and future Year 7 cohorts will be.

What these schools do well is to make sure that Year 7 students are looked after and are carefully introduced to the secondary education setting. Many of them adopt "middle school" approaches, and bring Years 7, 8 and 9 into a "school within a school" that provides the care and support needed. The *Flying Start* consultations have revealed that there is significant support for models of schooling that provide support for young adolescents in a secondary environment.

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 City East Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone** +61 7 3237 1000  
**Facsimile** +61 7 3229 5335  
**Email** [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Website** [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

The Government is keen to hear from the community on the proposals contained in its Education Green Paper and the public consultations will continue until the end of June 2010. The opinion expressed in your letter regarding the proposed move of Year 7 to secondary school is relevant to the Government's consideration of the matter. I have therefore asked the Department of Education and Training to record and consider your input as part of the consultation process.

Should you require additional information, I invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, by email at [andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au) or on telephone (07) 3237 0614.

Thank you for bringing your views on this matter to the Government's attention. Your feedback is welcome and will be considered in the development of the Government's policy on education reforms. I also take this opportunity to wish Lucy well in her schooling.

Yours sincerely



**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/144179 ET/10/3158

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## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: MC/PG – TF/10/11721 – DOC/10/61838

23 MAY 2010

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3224 4500**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631**  
**Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au**  
**Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au**

Dear

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2010 opposing the proposed move of Year 7 primary to secondary education. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your message have been noted.

This matter has been referred to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training for consideration and reply direct to you.

Please be assured that Minister Wilson will give your concerns his full consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

**M Weaver**

Director

Executive Correspondence

**B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Training.**

**By direction. For your information and direct reply, please. Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.**

**M Weaver**

Director

Executive Correspondence



**Queensland  
Government**

## Michele Rice

**From:** The Premier  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 May 2010 3:23 PM  
**To:** The Premier  
**Subject:** Education

**Importance:** High

**Subject:** Education

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Postcode:**

-----  
**Message:**

as a father of two young children who are currently in prep and year 2 the prospect of moving year 7 to high school concerns and upsets me greatly. i do not believe my kids would be ready for high school at 12 years of age and it would be inappropriate for them to go to school with 18 year old adults. i strongly oppose the proposed change. i have spoken to many other parents of primary school age children and none suport moving year 7 to high school. infact most are as outraged by the proposition as i am. i strongly recommend you keep year 7 at primary school.

-----  
**Response:**

Yes - via email

Collected?	YES	NO
17 MAY 2010		
Date Received in DPC		
Doc No	DOC/10/58107	
Track No	TF/10/11721	



**Queensland  
Government**

7 JUL 2010

Office of the  
Minister for Education and Training

Dear

I refer to your email dated 14 May 2010 to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland regarding the Education Green Paper, *A Flying Start for Queensland Children* especially the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school. The Premier has forwarded your email to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, for consideration. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The rationale behind the proposal to move Year 7 into secondary school is multifaceted. In 2007, the Queensland Government introduced the Prep year and, in 2008, increased the compulsory school starting age by six months. This means that, if no further changes are made, from 2014 children will spend eight full years in primary school.

In most Australian states, Year 7 is the first year of high school, where young people have access to specialist teachers and specialist facilities for learning. In secondary schools, subject specialists help ensure the depth of learning in such areas as the sciences, history, languages, arts and technology. Facilities in secondary schools engage students in more complex, hands-on environments than those able to be provided in the generalist primary school setting.

Further, the Australian national curriculum will be gradually introduced from 2011–2013. Phase one of the curriculum, which includes English, Mathematics, Science and History, will be fully implemented by 2014. We need to ensure that Queensland's Year 7 students have every opportunity to benefit from the new national curriculum with access to specialist teachers and facilities.

You raise the question of whether students in Year 7 will be old enough for secondary school. Most Queensland children are currently in Year 8 when they turn 13 and begin their teenage years. The shift in the compulsory school starting age will start to have an impact from 2014, when the youngest Year 7 students will be six months older as they enter Year 7. From 2015, half of Year 7 students will turn 13 in that year.

Most other states in Australia and many high-performing education systems around the world include Year 7 in secondary school. In Queensland, many schools already include Year 7 with secondary year levels, including P–10 and P–12 state colleges and many non-state schools. These students are younger in Year 7 now than the Year 7 cohorts in 2014 and the future will be.

Level 22 Education House  
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Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

What these schools do well is to make sure that Year 7 students are looked after and are carefully inducted into secondary education. Many of them adopt "middle school" approaches, and bring Years 7, 8 and 9 into a "school within a school" that provides the care and support needed in the developing years for young people. The Flying Start consultations have shown significant support for models of schooling that are able to provide support for young adolescents in a secondary environment.

Careful approaches to the transition for students from primary to secondary school, along with the access for Year 7 to specialist teaching and facilities, will create opportunities for our Year 7 students to experience stimulating and relevant learning. The move to secondary will position them for success in engaging with the new national curriculum and rising to the demands of their challenging futures.

The Government has been keen to hear from the community on the proposals contained in its Education Green Paper. The opinion expressed in your email regarding the proposed move of Year 7 to secondary school is relevant to the Government's consideration of the matter. I have therefore asked the Department of Education and Training to record and consider your input as part of the consultation process.

Should you require additional information, I invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, by email at [andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au) or on telephone (07) 3237 0614.

Thank you for bringing your views on this matter to the Government's attention. Your feedback is welcome and will be considered in the development of the Government's policy on education reforms.

Yours sincerely



**MURRAY DANIEL**

**Principal Advisor**

**Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training**

Ref: 10/135900 ET/10/3020

Released under  
RTI Act by DET



**Chloe Moss**

---

**From:** Nanango Electorate Office [Nanango@parliament.qld.gov.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2010 2:14 PM

**To:** Education - SMTP

**Subject:** FW: Kingaroy Kindergarten

Dear Geoff,

Following is a new email that we received from [redacted] going of the last email that we sent through to your office on the 30th March 2010.

[redacted] has raised new questions and concerns for the Kingaroy Kindergarten, that he would like added to his last enquires.

Kind Regards

**Debbie Redman**

Assistant Electorate Officer for

Dorothy Pratt MLA

Ph 07 41621381

Fax 07 41624774

Web: <http://pratt-mp.webs.com>

---

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2010 4:58 PM

**To:** Nanango Electorate Office

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Kingaroy Kindergarten

Dear Dorothy,

Just thought that I would give you a quick follow up on the earlier email. Have you had any information back from the Minister's office?

I have also recently heard, that when the planned move of grade 7 into the High Schools happens in 2013, that the space created in the Primary Schools will be used for pre prep. This could just be rumor.

All these factors, if true, would obviously have an impact on our Kindergarten's further development plans.

It would be appreciated if you could follow up on this for us as it will help us make a fully informed decision on this large investment.

Regards,

[redacted]

---

**From:** Nanango Electorate Office [mailto:Nanango@parliament.qld.gov.au]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 March 2010 3:57 PM

**To:** Minister for Education and Training

**Subject:** FW: Kingaroy Kindergarten

Dear Geoff,

4/05/2010

Following please find the email we have received from [redacted] regarding their Kindergarten and the uncertain future it now faces due to the Green Paper (attached) indicating that some 240 kindergartens are to be built.

Highlighted in red are questions [redacted] has asked which he and the Kindergarten committee need to have answered so they can re-assess their own plans to extend their kindergarten. They don't want to be left with "a new building with no, or minimal attendees".

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Pratt MLA  
Independent Member for Nanango  
Ph 07 41621381  
Web: <http://pratt-mp.webs.com>

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 28 March 2010 1:19 PM  
**To:** Nanango Electorate Office  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Kingaroy Kindergarten

Dear Dorothy,

I am writing on behalf of the Building Committee for Kingaroy Kindergarten in First Avenue.

Our current building was relocated there and opened in 1978. We are currently well advanced down the path of building a new Kindy on the land next door to the existing building. This will require a commitment of approximately \$400,000 of which we can at best get about \$120,000 in grants. Kindy will need to fund the rest through cash funds and bank loans.

Our major concerns which have now brought us to a halt, is the attached "green paper" of the Queensland Governments. In particular, page 5 under the sub heading of "A Kindy Year". It states that "Up to 240 kindergartens are being built across the state and all children aged 3½ to 4½ years will have access to a quality kindergarten program by 2014, so they are ready for the next stage of their learning. The kindergarten programs will be provided through community-based services, on school sites and through long day care centres. The first eight of the new kindergartens will open this year, and another 12 will open in 2011."

We were not overly concerned as it stated that these would be "provided through community-based services" of which we are and we are also affiliated with the government funded C&K Association. However, the alarm bells started to ring very loud and clear for us when our investigations revealed some of the processes involved. It would appear that the process is:

- 1/ the Education Department identify high growth areas.
- 2/ they then consult with C&K and receive "recommendations only", which they may or may not take into account.
- 3/ once an area is then approved by the Education Dept, they will then build brand new Kindergartens in the State School grounds to be run by the school.

From our information so far, it would appear that Kingaroy is not on the list before 2012, but there is a "Draft" list for 2013 and 2014 which, it has been suggested, Kingaroy might be on. One would have assumed that with the current growth rates in Kingaroy, that this would be very likely. If it is on this list, then we also understand that they will then build Kindergartens at both Taabinga and Kingaroy State Schools. These would obviously totally funded by the Government and be free for attendees.

As you could well understand, this is causing us great consternation as it would leave us with a new building with no, or minimal attendees.

What our Kindergarten was hoping you could help us with, is some investigations with the Education Department, or other relevant parties, to clarify a few items.

4/05/2010

- 1/ Is the above process a fairly accurate description of what is actually happening?
- 2/ Where are the new Kindergartens that are opening in 2010 and 2011 been built. (i.e. Community Kindergartens or school run and in what towns)
- 3/ Is Kingaroy a possible location for these state run Kindergartens in 2012 and 2013 or even later?
- 4/ If so, when and at what locations?
- 5/ What is the Education Dept plans for Community Kindergartens in the future as it would appear that their days are limited?
- 6/ Would they consider building new Kindergartens for community non-profit organizations as an alternative? (they currently only offer a grant of up to \$50,000 through C&K for capital works)
- 7/ If this is their plan, then obviously they must realise that Community Kindergartens will shut as they must charge to attend and hence will not be able to compete with free State run Kindergartens. What are their plans for the assets of Community Kindergartens, when they are forced to shut, that have been accumulated through many many years of voluntary work and community donations?

It would be greatly appreciated if you could please try to obtain this and any other pertinent information that would be beneficial for us in determining the feasibility of our project. You would be able to seek information at a far higher level than we can and hopefully they will be me forthright with you.

We would also be happy to travel to Brisbane for a meeting with yourself and Department of Education representatives if you thought that this was necessary and beneficial.

Regards,



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It is the addressee's responsibility to scan this message for viruses. The Parliamentary Service does not warrant that the information is free from any virus, defect or error.

4/05/2010

Mrs Dorothy Pratt MP  
Member for Nanango  
PO Box 176  
KINGAROY QLD 4610

Dear Ms Pratt

Thank you for your further enquiry dated 30 April 2010 on behalf of [redacted] of the Kingaroy Kindergarten in First Avenue, regarding the Queensland Government's kindergarten initiatives.

I have provided answers to [redacted] initial set of questions in my previous letter of reply to you dated 5 May 2010 and enclosed for your information. [redacted] has asked a further question concerning the possibility that space created in primary schools by Year 7 moving to secondary might be used for kindergartens.

As the *Flying Start* Green Paper states, to ascertain costs and implementation options of the Year 7 move, the Department of Education and Training will conduct a school-by-school audit of local circumstances and school capacities. At the present time, these audits have only been performed for state secondary schools. Information concerning primary schools has not yet been obtained.

My previous letter outlined the rigorous process of the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care (the Office) to identify areas of need for extra kindergarten places across the State, based on an analysis of supply and demand. At this stage, the Office has identified that the Kingaroy Statistical Local Area has no immediate need for additional kindergarten places given the existing kindergarten and long day care services.

In addition, it should be noted that the Queensland Government prefers that extra kindergarten services are co-located on schools to provide families with maximum convenience and to assist in school readiness. Kindergarten services co-located on state school sites will be operated by the Creche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland (C&K).

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Principal Advisor, Mr Murray Daniel, on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

Thank you again for raising these matters on behalf of [redacted]

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF WILSON MP**  
**Minister for Education and Training**

Enc

Ref: 10/114391 ET/10/2381

Dr Bruce Flegg MP



Shadow Minister for Education  
and Training

Member for Moggill

Website: [www.moggill.net](http://www.moggill.net)

March 3, 2010

Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister

I refer to your green paper proposal to move Year 7 to high school. This will severely impact independent schools, particularly primary schools that are facing a substantial decline in their budget as well as high schools that must plan for a huge increase in enrolments as early as 2014.

As you have called for discussions on this matter could you please detail for me what capital assistance and recurrent expenditure assistance the State Government is likely to make available to the private sector when this move occurs.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature of Bruce Flegg in black ink.

**Bruce Flegg MP**  
Shadow Minister for Education  
and Training  
Member for Moggill





**Queensland  
Government**

21 MAY 2010

Dr Bruce Flegg MP  
Member for Moggill  
PO Box 328  
KENMORE QLD 4069

Office of the  
**Minister for Education and Training**

Dear Dr Flegg

Thank you for your letter dated 3 March 2010 regarding the Government's discussion paper *A Flying Start for Queensland Children: Education Green Paper for public consultation*. I apologise for the delay in replying.

As you would be aware, all jurisdictions have signed up to the Australian national curriculum with the first phase to be implemented for Years Prep-10 by the end of 2013. In most Australian jurisdictions, Year 7 is the first year of secondary school and provides students with access to specialist teachers and facilities. A key proposal of the Education Green Paper is to make these opportunities available to all Queensland Year 7 students, whether in the state or non-state schooling sectors, by positioning Year 7 as the first year of secondary school.

I am advised that of the 467 non-state schools in Queensland, 228 are primary schools, 82 are secondary schools, and 157 combine primary and secondary year levels, including P-12 and P-10 schools. In the independent schools sector, some 73 per cent of schools combine primary and secondary years. In this context, I am pleased to note that media reports are indicating that a large number of independent schools support the proposed move of Year 7 to secondary school, and that the independent schools sector is well placed to make this change.

It is likely that there will be costs associated with implementation of the proposal and, as outlined in the Education Green Paper, preliminary costings indicate that capital funding of between \$300-350 million over the next four years might be required. There will also be recurrent costs associated with employing specialist teachers, purchasing text books and other items.

It is important for all Queenslanders to have their say on the Flying Start Green Paper feedback to ensure all the impacts of the initiatives proposed are known and considered before the Government makes a final decision.

As advice and submissions are received from stakeholders, the Department of Education and Training is working to quantify the capital and recurrent investment required for this change. Support for the non-state schooling sectors to make the change will be considered by the Government in due course.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Principal Advisor, Mr Murray Daniel, on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

Thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF WILSON MP**  
Minister for Education and Training

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

Ref: 10/66243 ET/10/1177



## REQUEST FOR RESPONSE TO EMAIL REQUEST

Requested by: Jasmine Swinton, Departmental Liaison Officer (323 70875) BK

**To:** RESEARCH, POLICY AND LEGISLATION

**Subject:** TRANSITION OF THE YEAR 7 YEAR OF SCHOOLING FROM  
PRIMARY TO HIGH SCHOOL

**Date/time required:** Friday 5 February 2010, 1:00 pm

**Today's date:** Wednesday 3 February 2010

---

The Minister's office has requested a dot point response to the information below.

Please contain your response under this request as an attachment and move in TRIM to Liaison Officer 02 OME M&ESU by the date/time required.

Thank you for your assistance in providing this information.

### REQUEST AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Please provide information (dot point format) and draft email response regarding the relocation of the Year 7 year of schooling from primary to high school - attached correspondence refers.

### Preparation Instructions

- ① Approved response should be returned to the requesting Departmental Liaison Officer, who will then process the response. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are responses to be sent directly to the Minister's office.
- ② If this brief requires additional information from another branch/directorate within the department, please liaise with the appropriate person to submit one consolidated response.

Departmental Liaison Officer  
Floor 22, Education House  
30 Mary Street, Brisbane Q 4000

☎ 3237 0875  
☎ 3229 5335

✉ jasmine.swinton@deta.qld.gov.au

Hi

We're going to need a standard response prepared to this type of enquiry/complaint – please provide some key dot points.

Regards

---

**From:** Capalaba Electorate Office [mailto:Capalaba@parliament.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 February 2010 9:55 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Secondary Year 7 Proposal

Hi

Could you please organise a response to [redacted] explaining the benefits of Year 7 moving to a high school complex?

His address is [redacted]

Thanks

Lisa Weightman  
Office of Michael Choi MP  
Member for Capalaba  
Ph: 07 3245 6950  
Fax: 07 3245 4871  
Email: capalaba@parliament.qld.gov.au

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2010 3:56 PM  
**To:** Capalaba Electorate Office  
**Subject:** Secondary Year 7 Proposal

Dear Member,

This proposal for Secondary Year 7 is an absolute waste of money!

I thought Qld was broke?

Change the curriculum, not the school room location.

Kids do three years compulsory LOTE in Primary and cant speak a sentence of another language at the end of it. This is ridiculous.

Do LOTE for a year and teach em sumfing useful for the other two!

And my local schools do not teach kids computer skills in Primary and Years 8 and 9. I have been asking them to do so for 5 years, but they refuse. That's just ridiculous too.

Please spend the money on fixing these curriculum problems, not just changing the street address of the Year 7 classroom.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Capalaba Electorate Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 7:18 AM  
**Subject:** Hospital Beds

Dear Member,

I refer to recent CM articles re no. of hospital beds.

Could you please explain to me why hospital beds have only increased marginally over the last decade of your govt while the population has increased significantly.

Also, wrt childrens hospitals, we have two in Brisie. Could you please explain to me why:

- your govt is going to close one and build a new one at a cost of \$1 B; and
- we'll only end up still with two childrens hospitals but with only 30 new hospital beds.

Thank you

[Redacted]

Released under the  
RTI Act by DET

## PROPOSAL TO MOVE YEAR 7 INTO HIGH SCHOOL – CAUCUS LIAISON REQUEST

### Green Paper – The proposal

- The Green Paper '*A Flying Start for Queensland Children*' contains a proposal to move Year 7 into secondary school from 2014.
- Government has committed to making a decision on this matter before the end of 2010 following consultation with the community.

### Key drivers for the proposal

- By 2015, the impact of the introduction of Prep in 2007 and the increased compulsory school starting age in 2008 means that by 2015 children in Year 7 will have spent eight full years in primary school, and more than half of them will turn 13 years old by the end of Year 7.
- By 2013, the first four national curriculum subjects (English, Maths, Science and History) will be fully implemented in our schools, and Year 7 students will benefit from access to specialist expertise and facilities.
- Socially and emotionally, children of this age are seeking out new challenges, new friends and new experiences; academically they need appropriate levels of challenge to remain interested.

### Financial and infrastructure impacts

- The change will affect 178 state and 81 non-state secondary schools.
- Preliminary work indicates that such a move would cost between \$300 - \$350m over the next four years.
- If no change is made to the placement of Year 7, an investment of \$159m would still be required by 2015 to accommodate the full cohorts in primary school (Prep to Year 7).

### Consultation

- The Department of Education and Training is delivering public consultation forums across Queensland. Dates and locations of these forums are provided on the Department of Education and Training's website at [www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/index.html](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/index.html), as the dates and locations are finalised.
- Media reports identify that:
  - A large number of Queensland independent schools have been calling for Year 7 to be part of secondary school over the past year and Independent Schools Queensland believe that it will be important for Queensland to make this move as soon as practical with the introduction of a national curriculum.
  - The Queensland Teachers Union has stated that the cost of making Year 7 part of secondary school has been underestimated.
  - The Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens Association has stated that extra government allowances could ensure that isolated and remote families would not be burdened (by moving Year 7 to secondary school).
- The Isolated Children's Parents' Association has expressed concerns regarding the financial and emotional cost of moving Year 7 to secondary school for isolated rural and remote families – especially in circumstances where there is no provision for secondary school in the local community.
- The Department of Education and Training is in the process of forming a stakeholder Advisory Committee that will include representation from key stakeholders including education sectors, unions, peak principal and parent groups. This Committee will complement submissions as key mechanisms to engage stakeholders in consideration of the Green Paper initiatives and proposals.

- Responses to the Green Paper '*A Flying Start for Queensland Children*' can be submitted by:
  - responding to the discussion questions on page 26 and 27 of the paper either by mail or online at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)
  - preparing a written submission that responds to the discussion questions or raises any other changes that will improve Queensland schools
  - joining in on one of the public consultation forums which will be held in schools and communities around the state. Dates, times and locations of forums are available at [www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/index.html](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/index.html).
- Submissions should include the name and contact details of the person making the submission and can be submitted via email at [aflyingstart@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:aflyingstart@deta.qld.gov.au) or by fax (07) 3237 1175. Submissions can also be mailed to:

A Flying Start for Queensland Children Green Paper  
Assistant Director-General  
Research, Policy and Legislation  
Department of Education and Training  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Released under the  
RTI Act by DET

Parliament of Queensland



**RECEIVED**

10 FEB 2010



Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

**BETTY KIERNAN MP**  
*Working for the Outback*

**REPRESENTING**

2 February 2010

Dear Minister

I write in relation to the proposal to move year 7 from primary school to high school.

I believe this will be a serious concern for many parents in my Electorate, which has a total of 28 primary schools, 16 of which are within communities that don't have high schools.

These families would have no choice but to send their children away to attend boarding school at the young age of 11. This would result in an extra year of boarding school fees for parents, and in turn, an extra year's financial assistance being called on from the Government.

I ask that you please have consideration for rural families when making this decision.

Yours sincerely

  
**BETTY KIERNAN MP**  
Member for Mount Isa

Birdsville  
Bedourie  
Betoota  
Burketown  
Boulia  
Camooweal  
Cloncurry  
Croydon  
Dajarra  
Doomadgee  
Einasleigh  
Forsayth  
Georgetown  
Gunpowder  
Hughenden  
Julia Creek  
Kajabbi  
Karumba  
Kynuna  
Maxwelton  
McKinlay  
Mornington Island  
Mount Isa  
Mount Surprise  
The Monument  
Normanton  
Prairie  
Richmond  
Stamford  
Torrens Creek  
Urundangi  
Winton

Mount Isa Electorate Office: 74 Camooweal Street / PO Box 3223, Mount Isa 4825 Ph: 4743 5149  
Cloncurry Electorate Office: Unit 1/27 Ramsay Street, Cloncurry 4824 Ph: 4742 2530  
Email: mount.isa@parliament.qld.gov.au

Fax: 4743 3386 1800 818 824  
Fax: 4742 2524 1800 801 569





**Hon Geoff Wilson MP**  
Member for Ferny Grove

28 APR 2010



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Education and Training**

**Mrs Betty Kiernan MP**  
Member for Mount Isa  
PO Box 3223  
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Dear Mrs *Betty* Kiernan

Thank you for your letter dated 2 February 2010 and our meeting of 9 March 2010 regarding the proposal to move Year 7 from primary school to secondary school and the potential impact this may have on families within your electorate. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Green Paper, *A Flying Start for Queensland Children*, which was released in February 2010, allows an opportunity for families to provide feedback on initiatives and proposals, including moving Year 7 to secondary school, so that the Queensland Government can carefully consider local issues and solutions ahead of any changes.

I understand the concerns of your constituents about potentially sending their Year 7 children to secondary school away from home. We are investigating local circumstances and school capacities in order to better understand the types of assistance and support that would be beneficial to isolated rural and remote communities.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and representatives of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association and the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens' Association recently. As a result of this meeting, the Department of Education and Training will specifically consult with representatives of isolated children and their parents. I encourage your constituents to engage in the public consultation process by making submissions to the Department and attending public consultation forums.

The public consultation forums are being held so that families and community members are provided with an opportunity to understand why we are proposing these changes, to ask questions and to discuss how support can be given for the transition to secondary school. Dates and locations of these forums are provided on the Department of Education and Training's website online at [www.det.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/index.html](http://www.det.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/index.html). At your suggestion, we will also work to organise a virtual forum via the schools of distance education, in the near future.

In regard to the age at which children commence Year 7, from 2014 they will be older than in previous years. In 2008, the Government raised the age of compulsory schooling, and as a result the youngest Year 7 students will be 11 years and 6 months old at the commencement of Year 7 from 2014 onwards, compared to 11 years old in previous years.

In addition, the Australian national curriculum, the first stage of which rolls out between 2011 and 2013, will require our Year 7 students to have access to specialist teachers and facilities. By planning now, we have four to five years to develop a program which will support the transition needs of young people, prepare our school facilities and address the concerns of families across Queensland.

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Principal Advisor, Mr Murray Daniel, on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

Thank you for your ongoing role in ensuring that the views of isolated children and their parents, and the unique impact this proposal will have on them, are understood by Government.

Yours sincerely



**GEOFF WILSON MP**  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/33492 ET/10/619

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RTI Act by DET

## REQUEST FOR RESPONSE TO EMAIL REQUEST

Requested by: Jasmine Swinton, Departmental Liaison Officer (323 70875) BK

**To:** EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

**Subject:** REGARDING THE TRANSITION OF THE YEAR 7 YEAR OF  
SCHOOLING FROM PRIMARY TO HIGH SCHOOLS - [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Date/time required:** Friday 29 January 2010, 1:30 pm

**Today's date:** Wednesday 27 January 2010

The Minister's office has requested a dot point response to the information below.

Please contain your response under this request as an attachment and move in TRIM to Liaison Officer 02 OME M&ESU by the date/time required.

Thank you for your assistance in providing this information.

### REQUEST AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Please provide information (dot point format) and draft email response regarding [REDACTED] enquiry about the transition of the Year 7 year of schooling from primary to high schools - attached correspondence refers.

### Preparation Instructions

- ① Approved response should be returned to the requesting Departmental Liaison Officer, who will then process the response. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are responses to be sent directly to the Minister's office.
- ② If this brief requires additional information from another branch/directorate within the department, please liaise with the appropriate person to submit one consolidated response.

Departmental Liaison Officer  
Floor 22, Education House  
30 Mary Street, Brisbane Q 4000

☎ 3237 0875  
☎ 3229 5335

✉ jasmine.swinton@deta.qld.gov.au

Advice please regarding enquiry/complaint rec'd from the Ferny Grove electorate office on behalf of a constituent, [redacted] - email below refers.

I understand that this proposal is contained within the proposed Green Paper which has yet to be announced by the Government.

---

**From:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Year 7 moving to high school

Hi Geoff,

I have just heard a radio news report that indicated the possibility of only 1 more year of Year 7 in primary schools. Our eldest son [redacted] jaw dropped when he heard it! I know why.....I shall explain further.

I just wanted to let you know as Education Minister my opinion surrounding Year 7 moving to high school. I just hope it is not intended in the next couple of years. The reason I am strongly opposed to this is because our eldest son [redacted] has been working so hard towards becoming school captain next year, 2011 !

Our younger son is only starting Year 3, so it would not affect him as much if year 7 was moved to high school. But please consider ALL of THOSE WONDERFUL kids out there that have been working towards Year 7 leadership positions.

I would think that a good transition period, similar to PREP, with good media coverage, community meetings and parental/staff feedback would be a better option.

It would be so sad for kids in year 5 & 6 this year to have this thrown onto them, without any warning.

Thanks as always for your time.

[redacted]

Released under the  
RTI Act by DET

Dear

Thank you for your email regarding news reports about Year 7 in Queensland schools.

I understand your concerns about the issue of placement of Year 7 and these concerns would be shared by many Queensland parents with children in Year 6 in 2010. The last years of primary schooling and the transition into secondary schooling can prove to be challenging and exciting times in a young person's life.

In most Australian states, Year 7 is already the first year of high school so that young people have access to specialist teachers and specialist facilities for learning. With the Australian curriculum being developed against world standard benchmarks, the Government needs to consider whether bringing Queensland into line with other states will best meet the development and educational needs of our young people.

I can assure you that considerable consultation and planning are needed before any change could be expected. The roll-out of the Australian curriculum does not begin until 2011 and the first phase will not be implemented in schools across the country until 2013. The first full cohort of Queensland Prep students started school in 2008 and these children are not due to commence Year 7 until 2014.

The Queensland Government has committed to undertaking full consultation on Year 7 placement with parents, teachers and the wider community. It is vital to understand the impacts of all options including moving Year 7 to high school and you may be assured that the views of families across Queensland will be considered before any final decision is made.

I thank you for your interest in this matter and wish your son,  the best in his quest to become school captain in 2011.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF WILSON MP**  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/17427

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING		TRIM Ref: 10/16441
Noted/Supported DG: .....	Noted Policy Advisor: .....	Noted Principal Advisor: .....

## Information Briefing Note

**Title SIX YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL – PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE YEAR 7 IN HIGH SCHOOL**

### 1. Recommendation

- It is recommended that information about the starting age rules, and prep groups affected; the comparisons to other state and territories; and possible questions and answers about including Year 7 as a year of High School be noted.

### Fast facts

### 2. Background

- The department has prepared background Information in relation to the proposal to include Year 7 in High School – resulting in six years of high school for Queensland students.
- Attachment 1:**
  - Indicates the starting age rules and the cohort of prep children that would be affected by a proposed change to Year 7 as a year of high school
  - shows a comparison of starting ages in other State and Territories
  - poses 12 possible questions and answers in relation to the proposal.
- Attachment 2** provides more detail about comparisons of starting ages across Australian States and Territories.

### 3. Right to Information

- I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief **are not suitable** for publication.

**ADG/DDG: Is consideration by the DG required before forwarding to the Minister's Office?**

YES ☐

NO ☒

Action Officer: Becky Walsh Principal Advisor

Director:

ADG:

DDG:

Branch: Education Queensland

Telephone: 3235 4479

Date brief completed by Action Officer: 27/01/2010



**Six Years of High School –  
Proposal to include Year 7 in High School**

**Starting Age Rules**

**Prep starting age rules:**

- Children must turn *5 years old by June 30* in the year they start Prep.
- Universal access and full-time attendance per week.

**Pre-school starting age rules:**

- Children must turn *5 years old by December 31* in the year they started pre-school.
- Non-universal access, 0.5 attendance per week

**First full cohort of Prep:**

- started Prep in 2008.
- start Year 2 this year (2010)
- start Year 7 in 2015

**Prep has two groups of children**

**Group 1: Children born between January and June (Same age group)**

- Children born between January and June of a calendar year
- These children are the **same age** when they start school *regardless of whether the Prep or Pre-school rules applied.*
- Introduction of Prep:
  - Did not change the age when these children start school.
  - Did not change the age these children are when they reach year 7.
- These children will:
  - be 11.5 – 12 years old when they start Year 7.
  - turn 12 years old during Year 7

**Group 2: Children born between June and December (Year older group)**

- Children born between July and December of a calendar year
- These children are **one year older** when they start school *due to the introduction of Prep starting age rules.*
- Introduction of Prep changed:
  - The age when these children start school by one year.
  - The age when these children are when they reach year 7 by one year.
- These children will:
  - be 12 – 12.5 years old when they reach Year 7.
  - turn 13 years old during Year 7

## **Comparison to Other States and Territories** (refer to Attachment 2 for more detail)

*State and Territories have different rules for school starting prep (or equivalent)*

Tasmania	must turn 5 by 1 January
Victoria and ACT	must turn 5 by 30 April
NT and Qld and WA	must turn 5 by 30 June
NSW	must turn 5 by 31 July
SA	must turn 5 .New intake each term. Children do 6mths – 18mths of Prep.

- All states and territories have Year 7 in High School (except WA and SA)
- Starting age for High school varies across the states and territories
- QLD Year 7 children will:
  - Be similar ages to NSW, VIC, ACT, NT and most in TAS
  - Turn 12 or 13 years old during first year of high school (same as NSW, VIC, ACT, NT, TAS)

## **Comparison of High School Starting Age**

	NSW	QLD (proposed), NT	VIC, ACT	TAS	QLD current	SA	WA
<b>First year high school</b>	Year 7	Year 7	Year 7	Year 7	Year 8	Year 8	Year 8
<b>Starting Age</b>	11y6m-12y5m	11y7m-12y6m	11y9m-12y8m	12y1m-13y1m	12y1m-13y1m	13y1m-13y6m	12y7m-13y6m
11y6m							
11y7m							
11y8m							
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12y11m							
13y							
13y1m							
13y2m							
13y3m							
13y4m							
13y5m							
13y6m							
<b>Turns(age)</b>	12 or 13	12 or 13	12 or 13	13	13	13 or 14	13 or 14

## Possible Questions and Answers

### 1. What year is the full prep cohort in Year 7?

- 2015 (half cohort will be in year 7 in 2014)

### 2. How old will the Full Prep Cohort be at the start of Year 7?

- 11y7m – 12y6m

### 3. What age will the Full Prep Cohort turn during Year 7?

- Half cohort will turn 12 and half cohort will turn 13.

### 4. How will the change to the starting age affect the age of children in Year 7?

- When the starting age rules changed from 'children must turn 5 by 31 December' to 'children must turn 5 by 30 June' of the year a child starts prep:
  - those children born in first half of the year (Jan – June) were not affected.
  - those children who were born between July and December had to wait another year to start Prep.
- Children born July – December will be a year older in Year 7.
- Children born Jan – June will be the same age in Year 7.

### 5. Which other states have Year 7 in high school?

- NSW, NT, VIC, ACT, TAS

### 6. How does Qld starting age compare to other states?

- State and Territories have different rules for school starting prep(or equivalent)

Tasmania	must turn 5 by 1 January
Victoria and ACT	must turn 5 by 30 April
NT and Qld and WA	must turn 5 by 30 June
NSW	must turn 5 by 31 July
SA	must turn 5 .New intake each term.
	SA children do 6mths–18mths in Prep
- Children's actual starting age in other states and territories range from 4½years (NSW) – 6 years (TAS)

**7. How does the age of children in the first year of high school compare to other States and Territories.**

- The proposal to put Year 7 into high school will bring Queensland in line with most other states and territories.
- QLD children will be the same age as NT children in Year 7 in high school. (Turning 12 or 13)
- QLD children will be similar (give or take a month) in age to NSW, VIC, ACT. (Turning 12 or 13)
- Most QLD children will be the same age as Year 7 students in high school in TAS. (Turning 13)
- SA and WA have Year 8 as high school. Their children will be a year older in first year of high school. (turning 13 or 14)

**8. What is the advantages of moving Year 7 children to high school.**

- The National Curriculum is establishing consistent educational standards across Australia.
- The new National Curriculum is being developed against world standard benchmarks.
- As the National curriculum begins to roll out from 2011, we need to ensure that Queensland children are provided with the best opportunity to benefit from the National Curriculum.
- The question we need to ask, particularly in areas such as science, is "where will our children gain the best advantaged in their learning, primary school or secondary school."?
- Leading states such as NSW and VIC already have Year 7 in high school. For science, maths and the subjects, their Year 7 children have access to specialist teachers in high school and specialist facilities.

So the questions we must ask ourselves are:

1. Where are these older year 7 children best placed for schooling?
2. Should they have access to specialist teachers and facilities to ensure they receive the same advantage in their education as children in other states?
3. If so, should the children move to secondary school to access the specialists or should the specialist facilities and teachers be placed in primary schools?

## **9. When is the National Curriculum Starting?**

- The National Curriculum will start rolling out in 2011. Phase 1, including English, Maths, Science, and History will start next year with full implementation across Australia planned by 2013.
- Phase 2, Geometry is expected to be rolled out in 2012, with full implementation in 2014.
- Dates for the other curriculum is yet to be determined.
- By 2015 when the current children in Prep reach Year 7 we will be well underway with National curriculum

## **10. Should children as young as 11.5 years old be moved into high school with 17 and 18 year old Year 12 students.**

- Safety of children in our schools is our number one priority.
- Schools have systems and processes in place now to support the transition of children to high school. Strategies such as, home or care teachers, separate play area for children in their first year of high school are employed to assist with their transition.
- We already have P-12 schools throughout the state and non-state sector, where children in Year 7 transition to the high school. These schools have established procedures and processes to ensure the safety of the children. These Year 7 children are currently benefiting from specialist teachers and facilities.
- The other question to ask is "Should we have children as old as 12 ½ years in primary schools with 4 ½ years old?"

## **11. How many children will be affected by this change?**

When the Prep cohort start going through only ½ the children in year 7 will be affected:

- Queensland children born Jan-June will be the same age in Year 7 with Prep as they would have been before Prep. These children will go to high school a year younger than they would if they were to start high school at year 8.
- However, children their age in most other states, and in QLD P-12 schools, are already at high school in year 7.

The other children in the group (those born between July and December) will be a year older in Year 7 so will be going through to high school at the same age as if they were going to Year 8 (before the introduction of Prep)

However, if we do not provide specialist teachers and facilities to all of our children in Year 7 then all of them will be disadvantage compared to children interstate.

**12. How many State and Non-State P-12 and P-10 schools are there in Queensland?**

**P-10**

State	45
Catholic	0
Independent	3

**P-12**

State	36
Catholic	17
Independent	121

**Total P-10 or P-12: 222**

NB: Data for independent and catholic schools is for schools operating in 2009. Data includes year levels schools are accredited for but not all schools may be currently offered these year levels.

Other combinations accredited at non-state schools include:

<b>Year 1 to Year 10</b>	Independent	1
<b>Year 1 to Year 12</b>	Independent	1
<b>Year 4 to Year 12</b>	Independent	1
<b>Year 4 to Year 7</b>	Catholic	1
<b>Year 5 to Year 12</b>	Catholic	10
<b>Year 6 to Year 12</b>	Independent	1
<b>Year 7 to Year 12</b>	Independent	3

Released under the  
RTI Act by DET



# School year level and age - Queensland

Attachement 2

Year	Current		Previous	
2008	Prep (Universal access, full-time)	4.5-5.5	Pre-school (Non-universal, non-compulsory attendance; 0.5 attendance)	4-5
2009	Year 1	5.5-6.5	Year 1	5-6
2010	Year 2	6.5-7.5	Year 2	6-7
2011	Year 3	7.5-8.5	Year 3	7-8
2012	Year 4	8.5-9.5	Year 4	8-9
2013	Year 5	9.5-10.5	Year 5	9-10
2014	Year 6	10.5-11.5	Year 6	10-11
2015	Year 7	11.5-12.5	Year 7	11-12

Pre-school: child was required to be 5 by December 31 of the year they started pre-school.

Prep: child is required to be 5 by June 30 in the year that they start prep.

January to June children in Prep are the same age as they would have been in Preschool.

July to December children have to wait until the following year to begin school, so they are a year older than they would have been previously.

Children in Year 7 will be the same age or up to a year older as current Year 7s.

Increased starting age occurred to bring Queensland in line with other states, following public consultation in the ETRF process. It was determined to increase starting age, but only by 6 months.

## ATTACHMENT A

	ACT	NT	NSW	QLD current	QLD Full Prep Cohort	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
<b>Enrolment Requirement for Prep</b>	Must turn 5 before 30 April	Must turn 5 by 30 June	Must turn 5 by 31 July	Must turn 5 by 30 December	Must turn 5 by 30 June	Continuous enrolment each term as child turns 5, must do 2 terms of Prep	Must be 5 by 1 January	Must be 5 by 30 April	Must turn 5 by 30 June
<b>Start of Prep (Jan/early Feb)</b>	4y9m-5y8m  ("Kinder" = Prep)	4y7m-5y6m	4y6m-5y5m  ("Kindergarten" = Prep)	4y-5y  (Preschool) Most children will be 4, a few children (born in January) will be 5	4y7m-5y6m	5y-6y3m  Children born in the last three months of the year will do 18months Prep.	5y-6y  Most children will be 5	4y9m-5y8m	4y7m-5y6m
<b>Start of Year 1 (Jan/early Feb)</b>	5y9m-6y8m	5y7m-6y6m	5y6m-6y5m	5y-6y	5y7m-6y6m	6y-6y6m	6y-7y	5y9m-6y8m	5y7m-6y6m
<b>High school starting age (end-January 2010)</b>	11y9m-12y8m  (Year 7)	11y7m-12y6m  (Year 7)	11y6m-12y5m  (Year 7)	12-13 (Most children will be 12)  (Year 8)	11y7m-12y6m  (Year 7)	13y-13y6m  (Year 8)	12-13 (Most children will be 12)  (Year 7)	11y9m-12y8m  (Year 7)	12y7m-13y6m  (Year 8)
<b>Age child turns in first year of high school</b> If age is <b>bolded</b> , majority of children will turn that age	<b>12 or 13</b> Just over ½ cohort will turn 13	12 or 13 ½ cohort will turn 12 ½ cohort will turn 13	<b>12 or 13</b> Just over ½ cohort will turn 12	<b>13</b> Most children will turn 13 (children born during January will be 13 when school starts)	12 or 13 ½ cohort will turn 12 ½ cohort will turn 13	13 or 14 Just over 2/3 cohort will turn 14	<b>13</b> Most children turn 13 (children born during January will be 13 when school starts)	12 or <b>13</b> Just over ½ cohort will turn 13	13 or 14 ½ cohort will turn 13 ½ cohort will turn 14
<b>Age at end of first year in high school (end-November 2010)</b>	12y7m-13y6m	12y5m-13y4m	12y4m-13y3m	12y11m-13y11m	12y5m-13y4m	13y10m-14y4m	12y11m-13y10m	12y7m-13y6m	13y5m-14y4m

See enrolment rules below:

ACT

- One year in Pre-school, six years in Primary school (Years 1-6)
- All five year olds and children turning five on or before 30 April enrol at the beginning of the year.
- Children seeking to enter school at the preschool entry point should be four years of age on or before 30 April in that year.
- Children seeking to enter school at the kindergarten entry point should be five years of age on or before 30 April in that year.
- In the ACT it is compulsory for children aged from 6 to 15 years old to be enrolled at a school.

NSW

- One year in Kindergarten; six years in Primary school (Year 1-6).
- Children must turn five by July 31 in the year they start Kindergarten.
- All children in NSW must start school by their sixth birthday.

NT

- One (non-compulsory) Pre-school year followed by a (non-compulsory) Transition Year; six years in Primary school (Year 1 to 6).
- Children must turn five by June 30 in the Transition Year to start at the beginning of the year, but there are staggered intakes at beginning of each term of children who turn five later in the year and want to start.
- All children in NT must start school by their sixth birthday and remain in school until they turn 15.

QLD

- One (non-compulsory) year in Prep; seven years in Primary school (Year 1-7).
- Children must be five years by 30 June in the year they enrol in Prep.
- Compulsory attendance age increased by six months so that children must be enrolled in school in the year they will turn six years by 30 June.
- <http://education.qld.gov.au/library/edhistory/topics/age.html>

SA

- One year in Reception; followed by seven years in Primary school.
- Children must be 5 years old to start in Reception in South Australian schools.
- South Australian children must attend school from 6 to 16 years of age.

TAS

- Tasmanian schools have a non-compulsory Kindergarten year; followed by a Preparatory (Prep) year; with six years in Primary school (Year 1 to 6).
- To start Kindergarten, a child should usually be at least four years of age by January 1 in the year in which they start.
- A child who turns five by January 1 in any year must start school that year.
- All Tasmanian school children must attend school until the age of 16.

VIC

- One year in Prep; six years in Primary school (Year 1 to Year 6).
- Children who turn five years of age by April 30 of the year in which they start school.
- All Victorian children must attend school between the ages of 6 and 15 years.

## Key school transition points and age of child as at 2010

Attachement 2

WA

- One year of (non-compulsory) Kindergarten, followed by a (non compulsory) Pre-Primary Year, seven years in Primary school (Years 1-7).
- Children in Western Australian schools must turn four years old by June 30 to start Kindergarten that year and turn five years old by June 30 to start Pre-Primary year.
- The minimum school leaving age is 16 and will become 17 in 2008.

Source: <http://www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au/>

## National Curriculum

By 2013 *Phase 1* National Curriculum will be fully implemented (English, Maths, Science and History) and by 2014 *Phase 2* Geography will be fully implemented, and possibly Languages and Arts, but the timeline has not been confirmed. *Phase 3* is unknown.

## Proposal Six Years of High School – Possible Questions

### Possible Questions

#### 1. What year is the full prep cohort in Year 7?

- 2015 (half cohort will be in year 7 in 2014)

#### 2. How old will the Full Prep Cohort be at the start of Year 7?

- 11y7m – 12y6m

#### 3. What age will the Full Prep Cohort turn during Year 7?

- Half cohort will turn 12 and half cohort will turn 13.

#### 4. How will the change to the starting age affect the age of children in Year 7?

- When the starting age rules changed from 'children must turn 5 by 31 December' to 'children must turn 5 by 30 June' of the year a child starts prep:
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**Total P-10 or P-12: 222**

NB: Data for independent and catholic schools is for schools operating in 2009. Data includes year levels schools are accredited for but not all schools may be currently offered these year levels.

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<b>Year 5 to Year 12</b>	Catholic	10
<b>Year 6 to Year 12</b>	Independent	1
<b>Year 7 to Year 12</b>	Independent	3



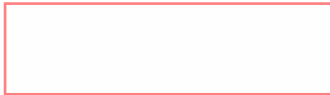


## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: MC/PG – TF/10/16407 – DOC/10/89955

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3224 4500  
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

20 JUL 2010



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2010 opposing the proposed move of Year 7 primary to secondary education. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your message have been noted.

This matter has been referred to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training for consideration and reply direct to you.

Please be assured that Minister Wilson will give your concerns his full consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence

**B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Training.**

**By direction. For your information and direct reply, please. Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.**

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence



**Queensland  
Government**



## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: MC/HC – TF/10/16270 – DOC/10/87376

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3224 4500  
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2010 concerning year levels for high school. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your message have been noted.

As you may be aware, the Queensland Government has initiated A Flying Start for Children discussion paper which is intended to inform the final Government policy on this issue, to be released later in the year.

Accordingly, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training for his consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing your views to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence

**B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Training.**

**By direction. For your information and any necessary  
Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.**

*M Klatt*

**M Klatt**  
A/Director  
Executive Correspondence

**Nadia Cecil**

**From:** The Premier  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 July 2010 3:47 PM  
**To:**   
**Subject:** Message for

SEARCHED	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
INDEXED			
- 5 JUL 2010		Date Received in 12/10	
Doc/10/85392		AF/10/16270	

Thank you for your email which has been received by the Office of the Premier. Please be assured your correspondence will be actioned as is appropriate. Should it be required, a formal response will be sent to you in due course. We appreciate the time you have taken to contact our office.

Regards

Ministerial Officer

Office of the Premier

Tomorrow's Queensland: strong, green, smart, healthy and fair - [www.toward02.qld.gov.au](http://www.toward02.qld.gov.au)

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

**From:**   
**Sent:** Friday, 2 July 2010 7:55 AM  
**To:** Premiers - SMTP  
**Subject:** re-year 7 as a high school year.

Dear Premier,

I am encouraged by your request for opinions from the community as regards this issue. This issue will be placed in differing socio-economic and cultural contexts. You are no doubt aware that in some private schools this has already been adopted-with middle school being years 7,8,9 and high school years 10,11,12. My son attends one of these and is a year 10 student. I think it would be worthwhile discussing this with Principals and staff of these schools and in doing so ask them to objectively compare the 'old' with the new. Also do a survey with all High top and small country school Principals and staff to see what they perceive as the costs and benefits of this system.

For families living away from access to high schools or senior/secondary school this will create difficulties. In some rural towns a high top (to year 10) exists. With the advent of senior school being years 10,11,12 parents will feel pressured to send their children in year 10 to achieve best results and the high tops will lose their year 10 students and possibly a teacher. Financially for some of these families this will mean greater costs- a child at year 10 will most likely need new uniform by year 12 due to growth as well as an additional 12 months school and boarding fees. Families lucky enough to access ICPA funding will be better off but will still be looking at possibly sending their child/children away 12 months earlier than previously.

Each family makes choices as they see right.

I believe that year 7 should remain a primary school level due to the physiological, emotional and psychological changes that in most children occur in their teens. I feel the year 7s are a valuable part of the primary school cohort and do not see why they should be pushed earlier into a high-school-setting. Again the small country schools and 1 teacher school will lose pupils if year 7 becomes the beginning of high school. Parents choosing to commence their children at a high school in year 7 will take them out of the little local school and board them so that they receive all their high school education from the same school. I know a number of local parents from my community who have made this choice so that their children do not have their secondary education disturbed part way through-they send them away at year 8 to glean the benefits of the full 5 years of secondary school.

2/07/2010

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Released under the  
RTI Act by DET

2/07/2010



5 AUG 2010



**Queensland  
Government**

Office of the  
Minister for Education and Training

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 2 July 2010 regarding the Education Green Paper: *A Flying Start for Queensland Children* to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland. The Premier has forwarded your email to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, for consideration. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

As you point out, many Queensland schools already include Year 7 with secondary year levels, including P-10 and P-12 state colleges and many non-state schools. What these schools do well is to make sure that Year 7 students are looked after and are carefully inducted into secondary education. Many of them adopt "middle school" approaches, and bring Years 7, 8 and 9 into a "school within a school" that provides the care and support needed in the developing years for young people.

Public consultation on the Flying Start Green Paper has shown significant support for models of schooling that are able to provide support for young adolescents in a secondary environment.

I note your concerns about the proposed move of Year 7 to secondary school, including the potential impact on parents, children and small primary schools in rural and remote areas. These issues have also emerged from the Flying Start Green Paper public consultation process along with issues about the social, emotional and psychological readiness of Year 7 students for the transition to secondary school, and are being carefully considered by the Department of Education and Training.

The Department is investigating local circumstances for students, families and schools in rural and remote areas to identify issues associated with the impact of the proposed move of Year 7 so that the Government can make an informed decision about the proposed move. Learnings from schools that already include Year 7 with secondary year levels will also inform the Government's consideration of this issue.

Should you wish to discuss these matters further, I invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, on telephone (07) 3237 0614 or by email [andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au).

Thank you for raising your perspectives about the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school. Your ideas are welcome and will be considered in the development of the Government's policy on education reform.

Yours sincerely

**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/180243 ET/10/3945

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 City East Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone** +61 7 3237 1000  
**Facsimile** +61 7 3229 5335  
**Email** [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Website** [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

**Chloe Moss**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 July 2010 6:09 PM  
**To:** Education - SMTP  
**Subject:** Fw: secondary school

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 05, 2010 2:51 PM  
**Subject:** secondary school

To Geoff Wilson,

I am writing this letter to complain bitterly about sending year 7's to secondary school in 2014. We will have a daughter in year 7 that year, and as we live 75kms to the nearest school and no school bus we would have to send her to a boarding school 1 year earlier. We think she would be too young to become independant from her family for most of the year. She would also be travelling for 500kms on a public bus by herself and I think that would be dangerous for a 12 year old child. She has a younger brother who would be on a property with no other children for playmates for three years rather than two which would make him very lonely. I know we will have difficulties in being able to afford another year of boarding school fees. I think that bush children are disadvantaged enough with distance education, lack of access to teaching resources and isolation without making the big leap into mainstream schools more difficult. I also think that secondary school is a big step for children socially and an extra year to be a child is beneficial.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

Released under  
RTI Act by DEE





5 AUG 2010

Office of the  
Minister for Education and Training

Dear

Thank you for the copy of your email dated 5 July 2010 to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland, regarding proposals in the *A Flying Start for Queensland Children: Education Green Paper for public consultation*. The Premier has also forwarded your email of the same date to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, for direct reply. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

I acknowledge the significant challenges that the Flying Start proposal to move Year 7 into secondary school would place on your family and other families in the rural and remote areas of Queensland.

Please be assured that your concerns are being taken very seriously and I have asked the Department of Education and Training (the Department) to record your input as part of the Flying Start consultation process.

As part of this process, the Department is investigating local circumstances and problems for students, families and schools in rural and remote areas. This is to identify all issues associated with the impact of the proposed move of Year 7, and the types of assistance and support that would be needed.

Should you require additional information, I invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker, Executive Director, Flying Start Reforms, by email at [andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.walker@deta.qld.gov.au) or on telephone (07) 3237 0614.

Thank you for bringing your views on this matter to the Minister's attention. Your advice is appreciated and will be considered in the development of the Government's policy on education reforms.

Yours sincerely

**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor  
Office of the Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/175104 ET/10/3768

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
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Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	10/137592

## Briefing Note

Principal Advisor

Office of the Minister for Education and Training

Requested by: MO

Date requested: 9/6/10

Action required by: 11/6/10

### Action required

- ☐ For meeting ☐ With correspondence  
☐ For information ☐ With QON

### Other attachments for Ministerial consideration

- ☐ Speaking points ☐ Ministerial Statement  
☐ Draft media release ☐ QON

## SUBJECT: Flying Start Consultations – Middle Schooling

### Proposal

That the Principal Advisor note the references to Middle Schooling in the *Flying Start* Green Paper, invited in community consultation forums, and addressed in public submissions received are of a substantial nature and do not support the claim that they are not included in the consultation process.

### Urgency

1. Urgent the Minister's Office has requested this briefing by COB 9 June 2010.

### Fast Facts

- To date, over 80 public forums have been conducted with over 2300 attendees and over 1200 individual non-forum submissions.

### Background

2. On 9 June 2010, Dr Bruce Flegg MP, Shadow Minister for Education and Training and Member for Moggill, made a statement in Parliament which suggested that the Queensland Government has failed to realise the potential of middle schooling and failed to consult on middle schooling with regard to the *Flying Start* Green Paper.
3. An earlier LNP response to the Green Paper is provided on the website of Dr Bruce Flegg, [www.moggill.net](http://www.moggill.net) and is also on the LNP website <http://www.lnp.org.au/>.
4. On 2 February 2010, the Green Paper *A Flying Start for Queensland Children* was released by the Premier and the Minister for public consultation. The Green Paper canvasses the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary schooling along with other options.
5. The Green Paper emphasises the Middle years strategy amongst major educational reforms (p 3):  
*"Middle years strategy  
In state schools, the middle phase of learning action plan saw class size targets reduce from one teacher for every 30 students to one teacher for every 28 students in the middle years — among the lowest middle years class size targets in the country. Teachers received extensive professional development in the teaching of literacy and numeracy. High-performing teachers were also supported to become middle phase leaders."*
6. The Green Paper (p 17) makes references to different models of schooling and recognises that much can be learned from Middle Schooling approaches if Year 7 is moved to secondary school:  
*"Some ... schools already organise their teaching and learning in a way that treats Year 7 differently from regular primary school and there are many things to be learnt from the practices and experience of these schools."*
7. In its discussion questions for consultation (pp 25 – 26), the Green Paper explicitly asks:  
*"Q6. What do you think are the major development issues affecting young teenagers that need to be considered in any move of Year 7 to secondary?"*

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	10/137592

*Q7. Should the early years of secondary school be changed to help students adjust to the transition?"*

#### **Key Issues**

8. Submissions relating to the Green Paper are being accepted until 30 June 2010. Responses received to date indicate the greatest interest from various members of the public (e.g. parents, teachers, principals, etc) to be associated with the proposed move of Year 7 to secondary school.
9. To date, more than 80 community forums have been conducted with over 2300 attendees. As well, more than 1200 written and online submissions have been received.
10. Overall, responses in both forums and non-forum submissions have clearly emphasised the need to ease the transition of students to Year 7 in secondary schooling or to consider alternative teaching and learning models. Three main themes emerging in this regard include: introducing transition programs to aid schools and communities, introducing pastoral care to support students, and gaining the benefits of adopting a middle schooling model.
11. Middle Schooling has represented a strong theme amongst others being received. People's concepts of Middle School have varied, but included suggestions such as separating Year 7 or Year 7-9 students from older students within the one secondary campus or on a separate middle school campus, or ensuring that the Year 7 program is a mixture of the primary and secondary school models to facilitate a more successful transition between the two models of schooling. This might include providing a home teacher, a home room with teachers rather than students moving, a single teacher for core subjects (e.g. English, Maths), reduced numbers of teachers, reduced student workload/homework, etc.
12. There has been consistency across submissions in relation to the benefits of middle schooling that people were calling for. Some of these benefits included safety, greater relevance and student engagement, and focus on the age group and on related teacher training.
13. Results of consultation will be presented in a public report once the consultation process has been completed and the Government has considered the outcomes.

#### **Attachments**

14. The Ministerial statement is attached (10/138021).

#### **Right to information**

15. I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief are not suitable for publication.

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	10/137592

**Recommendation**

That the Principal Advisor

Note the references to Middle Schooling in the *Flying Start* Green Paper, invited in community consultation forums, and addressed in public submissions received are of a substantial nature and do not support the claim that they are not included in the consultation process.

NOTED

  
**MURRAY DANIEL**  
Principal Advisor

2017/110

**Principal Advisor's comments**


**Action Officer**  
Dr Roland Simons

**Endorsed by:**  
ED  
Andrew Walker

**Endorsed by:**  
ADG  
Gabrielle Sinclair

**Endorsed by:**  
DG/CO/ASSDG  
Zea Johnston

Tel: 3247 4265

Date: 9.6.10  
Tel: 3237 0614  
Mob:

Date: 9.6.10  
Tel: 3237 1327  
Mob:

Date: 10.6.10  
Tel:  
Mob:

Date: / /

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**THE HONOURABLE GEOFF WILSON MP**  
**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Flying Start consultations: Middle schooling**

The Government has long supported reforms in middle schooling. Back in 2002, the *Education and Training Reforms for the Future* focussed attention on the middle phase.

The Government has reduced class size targets for the middle years to amongst the lowest in Australia. It has provided specific middle phase professional development.

The current Flying Start Education Green Paper reminds us of these middle schooling reforms.

The paper also points out that many Queensland schools – both state and non-state –already use middle schooling approaches. The paper seeks to learn from these schools in considering the proposal to move Year 7 to secondary school.

More than 80 Flying Start community consultation forums have been held, involving over 2300 people across Queensland. In those forums, participants have been overwhelmingly supportive of placing Year 7 in secondary.

---

Author:	Andrew Walker
DDG/ADG:	Zea Johnston / Gabrielle Sinclair
Date:	9 June 2010
Trim Ref:	10/138021

The consultations have posed middle schooling as a way to assist students make the move from Year 6 to Year 7, if Year 7 is in secondary.

In the forums and in over 1200 written submissions, people have clearly confirmed the need to ease the transition of students to Year 7 in secondary schooling.

They have suggested ideas for middle schooling. Here are some: organising curriculum across Years 7, 8 and 9; providing separate areas for Year 7 or Year 7-9 students; making the Year 7 program a blend of primary and secondary school, and strong pastoral care.

They have also made a host of practical suggestions that many schools already use with their middle school or lower secondary students. Suggestions like home teachers; home rooms where the teachers move rather than the students; just one teacher for core subjects (eg both English and Maths); reducing the numbers of teachers students work with; reduced student workload or homework, and so on.

They are enthusiastic about the benefits that they see coming from middle schooling approaches: better safety for students, greater subject relevance and student engagement, a focus on the age group and on related teacher training.

---

Author:	Andrew Walker
DDG/ADG:	Zea Johnston / Gabrielle Sinclair
Date:	9 June 2010
Trim Ref:	10/138021



The Government has invited discussion of middle schooling, and welcomes the enthusiasm shown by contributors to the Flying Start consultations.

Released under the  
RTI Act by DET

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Author:	Andrew Walker
DDG/ADG:	Zea Johnston / Gabrielle Sinclair
Date:	9 June 2010
Trim Ref:	10/138021

# The future of Education in Queensland

## Have your say – fill in this quick survey!

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

1 I am a:

☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Parent-Carer (GRANDPARENT)

Number of school aged children: 2

Grade(s): 5 and 8

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

*no support should be necessary.  
Bring back the old fashioned  
style of family life – spend more  
time at home and bring back the  
old education system.*

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

*(NEARLY EVERY DAY)*

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

*Very good as long as the  
children were made to respect  
them and behave better than they  
do now –*

Would you volunteer?

☒ Yes

☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

*stay in primary school.  
It is too young to mix with  
the behaviour of high school students.  
It is too young in a lot of cases.*

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

*See many – growing up far  
too young – their time which  
would worsen with this move.  
(alcohol – sex – drugs)*

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

*The behaviour in the classroom  
comes from the home – always.  
Kids should be taught this & teachers  
should only have to speak to be  
obeyed.*

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

*Bring back the cane  
Go back some years – back  
to basics – make sure they  
are ready for the job ahead.  
The rest will take care of  
itself.*

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. Please return your survey to:



**Neil Roberts MP** State Member for Nudgee

Via Reply Paid Post: Reply Paid 373, Northgate QLD 4013

In Person: to Neil or his team at a street stall, mobile office or community meeting



*We are told by teachers that they don't have the  
time to teach tables (number facts now).  
Take out the extras (chess – language – religion – etc etc etc) out of the  
classroom.*



# The future of Education in Queensland HAVE YOUR SAY

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- Improvements in 17 out of 20 testing areas in the recent NAPLAN results

- Laptop computers for Queensland State School and TAFE teachers
- Specialist educators – 'Flying Squads' to work with teachers to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for children.

## **What we are working on delivering**

- 240 new or expanded kindergartens throughout Queensland
- 100 new science teachers throughout Queensland
- Partnering with the Commonwealth to fund fully-qualified early education teachers in child care centres for pre-schooling programs
- Teaching and Learning Audits across all Queensland State Schools

## **But there is more to be done...**

The Queensland Government recently released ***A Flying Start for Queensland Children*** – a blueprint for the next wave of education reforms.

The Queensland Government is seeking input from educators, parents and students on a number of proposals to improve the education outcomes for young people and children, including:

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- recruiting volunteers to read with children in schools
- whether year 7 is better placed in high school
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*and then they may learn the necessities of schooling – and leave on a higher level –*

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PHONE

1 I am a:

☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: MOTHER of a PRIMARY TEACHER

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

Play schools – whether free or Paid Child care Centres.

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home? <sup>GRAND.</sup>

☐ Regularly

☒ Sometimes

☐ Never

WHEN I AM AT THEIR HOME

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

As I have helped children to read in a PRIVATE school, I think it is an excellent idea.

Would you volunteer?

☒ Yes

☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

REMAIN in PRIMARY

At this age mixing with those

who are young adults is not good

especially with DRUGS & ALCOHOL in

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

With every High School there are many young adults on Drugs & Alcohol. This is

bad example for impressionable youths. Especially PEER PRESSURE

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

DISCIPLINE in some

form or other

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

TEACHING SIMPLE MATHS & READING

& WRITING - IN SING-EDNG METHODS

WHICH SEEM TO WORK EFFECTIVELY. COMPUTERS CAN BE LEARNT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRB SCHOOL COMPUTERS, SEEMS TO

LEAD TO VERY BAD

EYESIGHT.

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EMAIL

PHONE

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☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Other Grandmother

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

Providing kindergartens, preps. Somehow helping Mums stay at home + have more time to talk to kids - better oral language

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

Education on the cheap  
Although retirees + uni students doing Education are a great resource (more prac)

Would you volunteer?

☐ Yes

☒ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

They could be moving to Second School - hormones - big fish in small pool syndrome - need to be nurtured

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

Overcrowded curriculum + too much stress - slow down school + master some subjects. more emotional literacy needed

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

Give kids good diet, esp breakfast, good amount of sleep, listen to them, keep in touch with teachers.

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

MORE LITERACY EDUCN  
(Some preservice is very sparse)  
MORE Behaviour Management  
Triple P in Education

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ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

1 I am a:

☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

CONSIDER WORKING  
MUMS - BY SUPPORT  
IN AFTER HOURS  
CHILD CARE.

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

GOOD IDEA - HOW  
COME SO FEW MEN  
DO IT?

Would you volunteer?

☒ Yes

☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

PRIMARY - MAKE  
THEM THE MENTORS  
FOR YOUNGER KIDS

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

KIDS ARE MADE  
TO GROW UP TOO  
QUICKLY - SLOW IT DOWN

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

MAKE THE PRINCIPALS  
DO THEIR JOB - NOT  
BE TWO FACED IN  
THEIR ROLES

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

PROMISE THEM THAT  
WHEN ALLEGATIONS AGAINST  
THEM ARE <sup>FOUND TO BE</sup> UNFOUNDED  
THEY WILL BE SUPPORTED

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ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

1 I am a:

☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Other grandmother

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

They should remain in primary school.

Society seems to want to ever increasingly propel our children towards adulthood.

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

They need to be allowed to be the children they are.

Not all children are ready by the end of the present grade 6 to be thrust into the 'bigness' of high school, even if it is into a junior school.

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☐ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

Would you volunteer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

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☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: 3

Grade(s): 3 (First Prep Intake), 1 & Prep

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you volunteer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

Remain @ Primary. Allow children to consolidate the extra maturity in a leadership capacity.

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

The affects of bullying & peer pressure - leave Gr 7 @ Primary School

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Office Cnr Toombul and Melton Roads, Northgate Qld 4013



# The future of Education in Queensland

## Have your say – fill in this quick survey!

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

1 I am a:

☐ Principal

☒ Teacher, Grade: P-3

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

By not being encouraged to buy a house until their children are 5 years old and they take responsibility for that important stage of their children's life.

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☐ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

Good Idea! but once again parents won't have time as they are both working. You will need to target around parents

Would you volunteer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

One less year level in the Junior School may help to focus on the important early years.

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

\*Children should not have been put into Child Care Centre. We are now experiencing a generation of sad, badly behaved, violent children who were not provided with the caring & interactive skills

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning? Most importantly

parents are responsible to ensure their children spend their early years in a loving, caring home life. (NOT in a child care centre)

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

You must not structure Prep & earlier years - It must be play based - this need has been proved through research - hence Early Childhood teachers need educating & training to understand the value of a play-based environment

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**Education has been, and always will be, a priority for the Bligh Labor Government.**

## We have already delivered

- \* Prep – a whole new year of schooling across Queensland *Must be play based*
- \* \$850 million for new and improved facilities in Queensland State Schools
- \* Improvements in 17 out of 20 testing areas in the recent NAPLAN results

- \* Laptop computers for Queensland State School and TAFE teachers
- \* Specialist educators – 'Flying Squads' to work with teachers to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for children.

## What we are working on delivering

- \* 240 new or expanded kindergartens throughout Queensland
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Hon Geoff Wilson MP  
Member for Ferny Grove



Queensland  
Government

Minister for Education and Training

5 AUG 2010

The Honourable Neil Roberts MP  
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and  
Emergency Services  
Member for Nudgee  
Corner Toombul and Melton Roads  
NORTHGATE QLD 4013

Dear Minister

Thank you for your personal representations on behalf of your constituents regarding proposals in *A Flying Start for Queensland Children: Education Green Paper for public consultation*. I appreciate your continued engagement with the *Flying Start* consultation process.

As you are aware, the Department of Education and Training is collating and analysing the input and feedback received through the consultation process, which concluded on 30 June 2010. A report on the outcomes of consultation will be considered by Government later in the year. The seven submissions from your constituents have been recorded by the Department as input into this process. Acknowledgement responses have been sent to all seven constituents.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Principal Advisor, Mr Murray Daniel, on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

Thank you for your continued support for the *Flying Start* public consultation process and bringing the views and concerns of your constituents to my attention.

Yours sincerely

GEOFF WILSON MP  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/147003 ET/10/3141

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

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EMAIL

PHONE

1 I am a:

☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: 3

Grade(s): 3, 5, 7

☒ Other childcarer

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

- providing in class tutors for children with low academic levels.
- more ~~financial~~ financial assistance for purchase of uniforms, camps etc. textbooks.

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☐ Regularly

☒ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

good idea

Would you volunteer? ☒ Yes ☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

Year 7 should stay in primary school. High school have big nos of children between 1000/2000, let alone deal with 3000 children in year 7. Year 7 in primary school gives children a chance

6 What do you think are the most significant issues to be affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

emotional issues, literacy / special needs ie, diabetes

Need more staff / classes more funding

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

- educate children with good morals, fairness / equality.
- any student misbehaving should be removed
- students needing extra help should get help from a tutor (in class)

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

signs of bullying, acceptance of all children especially with children with special needs / health concerns or low academic ability.

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What experience/knowledge do you have to make educational decisions?

The future of Education in Queensland

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Why aren't schools managing their own funds?

# The future of Education in Queensland

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NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

1 I am a:

☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: 1

Grade(s): 4

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

Financially enable them to spend more time with their children.

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

Crossed

Would you volunteer?

☒ Yes

☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

Stay in primary – the culture of high school would be too sophisticated for young children

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

Don't do it.

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

If possible have 1 parent home at least part time to support their children through school.

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

• Lots more practical teaching time & less "foundational" studies & more practical strategies  
• Reduce curriculum too big

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Reduce classroom sizes.  
(Private schools achieve better results when they do)



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ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

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☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: 2

Grade(s): Year 2

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

MORE INFORMATION REGARDING  
THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL, WHAT  
IS EXPECTED ETC.

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

GREAT!

Would you volunteer?

☒ Yes

☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

MOVE TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

CHILDREN ARE COERCED IN YR 7 AT  
PRIMARY SCHOOL.

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMMUNITY.

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

ENSURE SAFE + SECURE HOME

LIFE WITH GOOD FOOD, EXERCISE  
AND TIME GIVEN TO CHILDREN

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

HOW TO BE 'CHILD WHISPERERS'  
ie; GET THE MOST FROM ALL  
CHILDREN.

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# WE WANT YOU TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK HAVE YOUR SAY

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PHONE

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☐ Principal

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Other retired

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

Do not impose

unnecessary

pre-conditions

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☐ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

N/A

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

Not much

Would you volunteer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

Remain

It works. Stop wasting

our money.

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

It's understood

Compulsory Darwinism, etc

Get real. See below

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

Teach principles gathered from

our foundational Christian

heritage.

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

Compulsory reading of true

texts, such as "Architect of

The Culture of Death", obtainable

from (eg) The American Bookstore in

the city

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☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Other Mother of a teacher

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

Families to learn & teach respect for people and property

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☐ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never N/A

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

Greatly approve

Would you volunteer? ☒ Yes ☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

Primary school

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

Stay in primary school

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

Parents to take more responsibilities and leave teachers to teach.

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

Classes in self-defence

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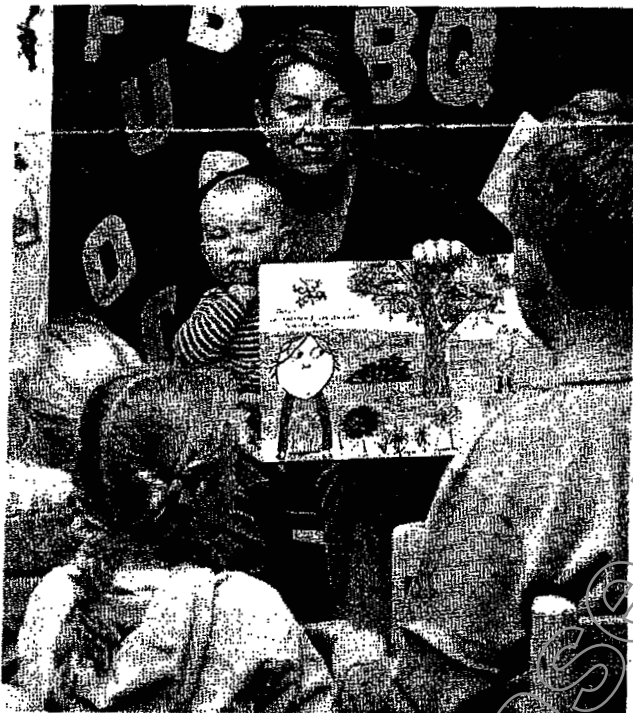
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ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

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☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: One

Grade(s): 11

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

Information with ideas, e.g.

1 age appropriate tutorial books available.

2 parenting; discipline, obedience + respect.

3 How often do you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

When she was born until grade 4

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

I enjoyed helping the teacher during Reading sessions. The children liked to have a fresh face in the classroom.

Would you volunteer? ☐ Yes ☒ No

I am employed full-time now.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. Please return your survey to:

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

Secondary school is more interesting and offers variety. Students' maturity begins before year 7 and therefore they will feel more comfortable in High School

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

Sexual morals + decent behaviour needs to be made clear + simple. Respect for themselves + others.

7 What can parents and teachers do to ensure classrooms are free from disruption and focused on learning?

Parents need to follow up on what is causing bad behaviour and get involved with the School's discipline actions.

8 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers?

Learn the difficulties that a large number of young employees cause in a workplace due to lack of respect + decent morals.



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- how to better prepare young children for school
- recruiting volunteers to read with children in schools
- whether year 7 is better placed in high school
- supporting improvements in teaching and behavioural standards throughout all Queensland schools.

**Please find on the reverse side a quick survey – fill it in and have your say on the next significant education reforms for Queensland.**

For more information go to the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) or call 1800 452 056



**Neil Roberts MP** State Member for Nudgee

Phone 3260 5326 Fax 3260 5346 Email [nudgee@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:nudgee@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
Office Cnr Toombul and Melton Roads, Northgate Qld 4013





# The future of Education in Queensland

## Have your say – fill in this quick survey!

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

1 I am a:

☒ Principal

[RETIRED]

☐ Teacher, Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Parent-Carer

Number of school aged children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 How can families be better supported in preparing children for school?

BY PROVISION OF PARENTAL SKILLS TRAINING ALONGSIDE ANTI-NATAL PREPARATION GROUPS IN CLINICS OR HOSPITALS.

3 How often <sup>did</sup> you read to your child(ren) at home?

☒ Regularly

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4 What do you think of a Government-sponsored program to recruit volunteers into schools to help children learning to read?

EXCELLENT IF QUALIFIED IN REQUIRED SKILLS. OTHERWISE OF LITTLE VALUE.

Would you volunteer? ☒ Yes ☐ No

5 By 2014, year 7 will be the eighth year of primary school and year 7 students will be, on average, slightly older. Should year 7 remain in primary school or move to secondary school and why?

MUOVE ON TO MATCH WITH OTHER STATES. INTRODUCTION OF NAT. CURRICULUM FOR PREP YR IF EFFECTIVELY TAUGHT. SHOULD NEGATE NEED FOR LATER TRANSFER. IMPROVE EMPHASIS ON TEACHING OF SELF-DISCIPLINE. NEED FOR SEQUENTIAL TEACHING OF CURRIC. SUBJECTS AS REQUIRED BY NAT. CURRIC. STRONGER DISCIPLINE WITHIN SCHOOLS WOULD PROTECT ALL PUPILS.

6 What do you think are the most significant issues affecting young people and how should they be addressed in any move of year 7 to secondary school?

PARENTAL SUPPORT OF TEACHERS IS ESSENTIAL. PARENTS MUST BE KEPT INFORMED OF AIMS & OUT-COMES OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY

7 What should educators and trainers include in pre-service training for teachers? INCREASED LENGTHS OF TEACHING PRACTICE DURING TRAINING. DEMONSTRATION & PLANNING OF SEQUENTIAL TEACHING PARTICULARLY IN MATHS, SCIENCE, ENGLISH. HOW TO PROVIDE FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ABILITY WITHIN CLASS GROUPS. HOW TO MAKE & RECORD ASSESSMENT OF ABILITIES AFTER TRAINING. MENTORING EXPERIENCED TEACHER.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. Please return your survey to:

Neil Roberts MP State Member for Nudgee

Via Reply Paid Post: Reply Paid 373, Northgate QLD 4013

In Person: to Neil or his team at a street stall, mobile office or community meeting





**Hon Geoff Wilson MP**  
Member for Ferny Grove



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Education and Training**

5 AUG 2010

The Honourable Neil Roberts MP  
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and  
Emergency Services  
Member for Nudgee  
Corner Toombul and Melton Roads  
NORTHGATE QLD 4013

Dear Minister

Thank you for your personal representations on behalf of your constituents regarding proposals in the discussion paper, *A Flying Start for Queensland Children: Education Green Paper for public consultation*. I appreciate your engagement with the *Flying Start* consultation process.

The Department of Education and Training is collating and analysing the input and feedback received through the consultation process and a report on the outcomes of consultation will be considered by Government in the latter half of 2010. The seven submissions from your constituents have been recorded by the Department as input into this process. Acknowledgement letters have been sent to six of the seven constituents who provided contact details.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Principal Advisor, Mr Murray Daniel, on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

Thank you for your continued support for the *Flying Start* public consultation process and for bringing the views and concerns of your constituents to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF WILSON MP**  
Minister for Education and Training

Ref: 10/104451 ET/10/2317

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3237 1000**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335**  
**Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)**  
**Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)**  
ABN 65 959 415 158