

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND EMPLOYMENT

GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: THE A/DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SUBJECT: QUEENSLAND'S 2012 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NATIONAL
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Approved / Not Approved

A/Director-General

Date

27/3/13

Date Action Required By: 28/03/2013

Copy to Minister's Office

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Acting Director-General:

- **approve** and **sign** two copies of the 2012 Annual Report on the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE) for provision to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (**Attachment 1**);
- **sign** the covering letter to Ms Joan ten Brummelear, Early Childhood Quality Reform, DEEWR enclosing the two signed copies of the 2012 Progress Report (**Attachment 2**); and
- **note** an electronic copy of the endorsed 2012 Progress Report will be provided to DEEWR by the Executive Director, Program Management, Funding and Performance.

Comments:

BACKGROUND

1. Section E of Queensland's Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education requires the Department of Education, Training and Employment to provide DEEWR with a 2012 Annual Report by 31 March 2013. Two signed paper copies and an electronic copy are required.
2. In line with the approach to submission of the 2011 Annual Report, the 2012 Annual Report has been prepared for the Acting Director-General to sign as the State Delegate's representative.
3. Queensland has received its full funding entitlement of \$252,029,000 under the NP ECE and no payment is associated with submission of the 2012 Annual Report or the Final Report due 30 September 2013.
4. Draft copies of the 2012 Annual Report were provided to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury and Trade for feedback. On 20 March 2013 both agencies advised no changes were required.

Action Officer and Branch: David Shearer, Director, Strategy Development and Implementation
Telephone: 323 90530
TRIM No: 13/54146
Date brief completed by Action Officer: 20/03/2013

5. The NP ECE expires on 30 June 2013 and national negotiations regarding post-NP ECE funding arrangements are ongoing. Due to these negotiations, a draft copy of the Annual Report was not provided to DEEWR in advance for their review.

KEY ISSUES

6. The 2012 Annual Report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2012, shows Queensland achieved a 77% enrolment rate which is a significant achievement in a short period of time, building on 68% in 2011 and the baseline of 29% in 2008.
7. In 2012, Queensland's participation rate has been significantly impacted by an unanticipated increase to the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) of four-year-old children of around 4,000 children determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Notably, Queensland's implementation plan was based on the lower ERP.
8. Queensland has achieved or exceeded almost all universal access performance targets from 2009 to 2011. However, the 2012 participation target of 86% has proved too challenging. In addition to the increase to the ERP, contributing factors may also include:
 - kindergarten participation remains voluntary in Queensland and no data regarding family choice exists to validate the feasibility of the participation targets;
 - any cost may prove a barrier to access for some families;
 - due to the caretaker period preceding the 2012 State Election, advertising to promote enrolment in kindergarten programs ceased from 19 February 2012, a key time for attracting late enrolments; and
 - availability of four year university trained early childhood teachers and their willingness to work in the long day care sector (as at 31 December 2013 there were 219 provisionally approved kindergarten program providers without teachers).
9. A summary of 2013 performance against the benchmarks is detailed below:

Benchmark	2012 Target	2012 Actual
Proportion of children enrolled in an Early Childhood Education (ECE) program	86%	77%
Number of qualified teachers delivering ECE programs	1,435	1,773
Proportion of children enrolled in an ECE program that is available for at least 15 hours a week	68%	71%
Average number of hours per week of attendance at an ECE program	14 hours	17.7 hours
Proportion of all disadvantaged children enrolled in a kindergarten program	75%	<i>Not yet available</i>
Proportion of all Indigenous children enrolled in a kindergarten program	78%	<i>Not yet available</i>

10. The ABS will make available data to enable the calculation of the indicators for participation of disadvantaged and Indigenous children to all states and territories in late March 2013. An update to the 2012 Annual Report will be prepared at that time.

11. Significant achievements within the reporting period included:
- 85 kindergarten services established, co-located with schools;
 - \$23 million additional annual funding through the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme targeting low socio-economic families and families with triplets or more;
 - \$28 million in non-recurrent grant programs announced;
 - \$1.7 million of Disability Support Funding made available;
 - interpreter service provided for kindergarten services, translation and interpreting services through the Kindy Hotline, parent resources translated into 30 languages to support participation of culturally and linguistically diverse families;
 - consultation and finalisation of strategies to increase the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in kindergarten programs including the *Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Early Childhood* program and the *Pre-Kindergarten Grants* program, due to commence in 2013;
 - e-kindy program piloted, with Queensland Parliament passing the *Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012* enabling State Schools of Distance Education to deliver e-kindy from Term 1 2013; and
 - publication and distribution of the 2012 QKindy magazine.
12. Present indications suggest it is unlikely Queensland will meet the end target of 95% participation by mid-2013. This may be exacerbated by a further change in the population data used to calculate participation (data issues detailed in previous brief, Ref: 12/476612).
13. National negotiations on funding arrangements beyond mid-2013 are currently underway. Queensland's achievement to date provides strong evidence to the Australian Government that their original commitment to sustain 2012-13 funding levels to maintain universal access to kindergarten should be upheld.
14. The next report required under Queensland's Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education is the Final Report, due 30 September 2013. This report will include data captured through Queensland's Early Childhood Education and Care Census in August 2013 and demonstrate achievement against the final participation target of 95%.
15. Acceptance of the Annual Report by DEEWR will result in its publication on the DEEWR website. A briefing note on the 2012 Annual Report has been prepared for the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Ref: 13/54564), including possible options to proactively release information on Queensland's achievements, performance targets and the need for sustained Australian Government investment.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no legal implications associated with submission of the 2012 Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no financial implications associated with the submission of the 2012 Annual Report regarding the current NP ECE. However, Queensland's achievement against 2012 performance targets may influence post-NP ECE funding scenarios proposed by the Australian Government.

MEDIA IMPLICATIONS

- 18. A media release is being prepared for consideration by the Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

- 19. I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief **are suitable** for publication.

Director, Strategy Development and Implementation: David Shearer

Signature: Approved	Date: 05/03/2013
---------------------	------------------

Executive Director Program Management, Funding and Performance: Kathryn Woods

Signature: Approved	Date: 21/03/2013
---------------------	------------------

Deputy Director-General, Policy and Programs: Gabrielle Sinclair

Signature: Approved	Date: 25/03/2013
---------------------	------------------



Department of
Education, Training and Employment

02 APR 2013

Ms Joan ten Brummelaar
Branch Manager
Early Childhood Quality Reform
Department of Employment, Education and
Workplace Relations
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms ten Brummelaar

I write to provide you with Queensland's 2012 Annual Report, in accordance with Schedule 1 Part E of Queensland's Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.

As required, please find enclosed two copies of the signed 2012 Annual Report. The electronic copy, together with a copy of the Data Capability Report and the Data Exception Report, will be provided by email.

Strong progress continued to be made in 2012 towards achieving universal access to kindergarten although unfortunately Queensland has not achieved the enrolment target of 86%.

Performance has been significantly impacted by an increase to the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) of four-year-old children in Queensland of around 4,000. Notably, Queensland's implementation plan was based on the lower ERP.

Queensland's commitment to achieving universal access and approach to implementation has been based on the Australian Government's original commitment of \$450 million per year to sustain 2012-13 funding levels for States and Territories beyond the expiry of the current NP ECE in June 2013. Queensland is continuing to work in good faith towards achieving and sustaining universal access and is actively participating in national negotiations to ensure ongoing funding is adequate to sustain achievements to date and support the substantially larger than predicted four-year-old population.

Should you require clarification on any matters regarding the 2012 Annual Report, I invite you to contact Ms Kathryn Woods, Executive Director, Program Management, Funding and Performance by email at kathryn.woods@dete.qld.gov.au or by telephone (07) 3237 9654.

Yours sincerely

Annette Whitehead
Acting Director-General

Ref: 13/69865
Enc: 2012 Annual Report (2 copies)

Office of the Director-General
Floor 22 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 0900
Facsimile +61 7 3237 1369
Website www.dete.qld.gov.au
ABN 76 337 613 647

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	13/54564

Briefing Note

The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Action required: Noting

Noting required by: As soon as possible

Routine - The Department will provide Queensland's 2012 Annual Report on the implementation of the *National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education* to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and it will be publicly released once accepted.

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF THE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Summary of key objectives

- To advise that Queensland's 2012 Annual Report on the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE) has been provided to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and that public release will occur once it has been accepted **Attachment 1**.
- To provide a summary of achievements under the NP ECE, including that Queensland achieved 77% enrolment in a kindergarten program in 2012 against a target of 86%. This ambitious target was impacted by changes to the Estimated Residential Population (ERP).
- To note that the NP ECE expires on 30 June 2013 and Queensland's 2012 performance may impact post-NP ECE arrangements and funding.

Key issues

1. Queensland achieved a kindergarten participation rate of 77% in 2012 which, while lower than the target of 86%, represents a strong and positive improvement, up from 68% in 2011 and 29% in 2008.
2. In 2012, Queensland's performance has been impacted by an unanticipated increase to the ERP of four-year-old children in Queensland as advised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). What this means is that the total estimated number of four-year-old children in Queensland to be used for reporting purposes, was 65,278 rather than the previous estimate of 62,486. Notably, Queensland's universal access implementation plan was based on the lower ERP.
3. Queensland has achieved or exceeded almost all universal access performance targets from 2009 to 2011, however the 2012 participation target of 86% proved too challenging. In addition to the increase to the ERP, contributing factors may also include:
 - kindergarten participation remains voluntary in Queensland and no data regarding family choice exists to validate the feasibility of the participation targets;
 - any cost may prove a barrier to access for some families;
 - due to the caretaker period preceding the 2012 State Election, advertising to promote enrolment in kindergarten programs ceased from 19 February 2012, a key time for attracting late enrolments; and
 - availability of four year university trained early childhood teachers and their willingness to work in the long day care sector (as at 31 December 2013 there were 219 provisionally approved kindergarten program providers without teachers).

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	13/54564

4. A summary of 2013 performance against headline indicators are detailed below:

Benchmark	2012 Target	2012 Actual
Proportion of children enrolled in an Early Childhood Education (ECE) program	86%	77%
Number of qualified teachers delivering ECE programs	1,435	1,773
Proportion of children enrolled in an ECE program that is available for at least 15 hours a week	68%	71%
Average number of hours per week of attendance at an ECE program	14 hours	17.7 hours
Proportion of all disadvantaged children enrolled in a kindergarten program	75%	<i>Not yet available</i>
Proportion of all Indigenous children enrolled in a kindergarten program	78%	<i>Not yet available</i>

5. In late March, the ABS will make data available to all States and Territories to enable calculation of the indicators for participation of disadvantaged and Indigenous children. An update to the 2012 Annual Report will be prepared.
6. Significant achievements within the reporting period included:
- 85 kindergarten services established, co-located with schools;
 - \$23 million additional annually through the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme to increase subsidies to low socio-economic families and families with triplets or more;
 - \$28 million in non-recurrent grant programs announced;
 - \$1.7 million of Disability Support Funding made available;
 - interpreter service provided for kindergarten services, translation and interpreting services through the Kindy Hotline, parent resources translated into 30 languages to support participation of culturally and linguistically diverse families;
 - consultation and finalisation of strategies to increase the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in kindergarten programs including the Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Early Childhood program and the Pre-Kindergarten Grants program, due to commence in 2013;
 - e-kindy program piloted, with Queensland Parliament passing the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 enabling State Schools of Distance Education to deliver e-kindy from Term 1 2013; and
 - publication and distribution of the 2012 QKindy magazine.
7. National negotiations on funding arrangements beyond mid-2013 are currently underway. Queensland's achievement to date provides strong evidence to the Australian Government that their original commitment to sustain 2012-13 funding levels to maintain universal access to kindergarten should be upheld.
8. Acceptance of the Annual Report by DEEWR will result in its publication on the DEEWR website.

Implications

9. Queensland has received its full funding entitlement of \$252,029,000 under the NP ECE and no payment is associated with submission of the 2012 Annual Report due 31 March 2013 or the Final Report due 30 September 2013.

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	13/54564

- 10. As Queensland has not met a key performance target for 2012 and this may attract negative media attention, it may be desirable to proactively release information highlighting Queensland's continued progress and achievements.
- 11. Queensland's 2012 achievements may impact national post-NP ECE arrangements and funding.

Background

12. Queensland is a signatory to the NP ECE and the associated *Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education* (the Bilateral Agreement). Section E of the Bilateral Agreement requires submission of an Annual Report on progress against agreed measures.

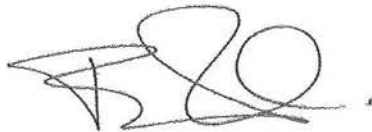
Right to information

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

Recommendation

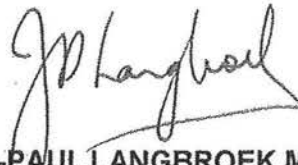
That the Minister **note** Queensland's performance against NP ECE targets for universal access to kindergarten and the forthcoming public release of Queensland's 2012 Annual Report by DEEWR (**Attachment 1**).

NOTED



FIONA CRAWFORD
 Chief of Staff
 Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
 Minister for Education, Training and Employment

ENDORSED/NOTED
 APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
 Minister for Education, Training and Employment

7, 4, 13

Copy to Assistant Minister

914 113

Minister's comments

Action Officer
 David Shearer
 Director
 Strategy Development and Implementation
 Tel: 3239 0530

Endorsed by:
 Executive Director
 Kathryn Woods
 Program Management,
 Funding and Performance
 Tel: 3237 9654
 Mob: Disclosure would, on t
 Date: 27/03/2013

Endorsed by:
 A/Deputy Director-General
 Gabrielle Sinclair
 Policy and Programs
 Tel: 3247 3365
 Mob: Disclosure would, on t
 Date: 28/03/2013

Endorsed by:
 Director-General
 Annette Whitehead

 Tel: 3231 71070
 Mob:
 Date: 31/4/13

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND EMPLOYMENT

GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SUBJECT: QUEENSLAND'S 2011 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NATIONAL
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

Approved / Not Approved

Director-General

Date

Guantha
13/4/12

Date Action Required By: **ASAP**

Copy to Minister's Office

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Director-General:

- **approve** and **sign** two copies of the 2011 Annual Report on the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement for Early Childhood Education (NP ECE) for provision to Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (**Attachment 1**)
- **sign** the covering letter to DEEWR enclosing the two signed agreements (**Attachment 2**).

Comments:

BACKGROUND

1. Section E of Queensland's Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (the Bilateral Agreement) requires the Department of Education, Training and Employment to provide DEEWR with a 2011 Annual Report by 31 March 2012. Under the NP ECE, provision of the report is required to receive the next scheduled payment of \$48,798,500.
2. Officer level agreement has been obtained to submit the report to DEEWR by 13 April 2012. Draft copies of the report have been provided to DEEWR on a "without prejudice" basis, as well as to the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury and Trade. Minimal feedback has been received and incorporated into the report where appropriate.
3. Previous Annual Reports on the NP ECE have been submitted under the Minister's signature. However, due to the impact of caretaker and consistent with actions of other jurisdictions, endorsement by the Director-General, Department of Education, Training and Employment is considered appropriate.

Action Officer and Branch: Kathrin Jensen, Director, Strategic Initiatives and Engagement
Telephone: 3406 7515
TRIM No: 12/18526
Date brief completed by Action Officer: 05/04/2012

KEY ISSUES

4. Data reported in the 2011 Annual Report is sourced from the 2011 Early Childhood Education and Care Services Census, compiled in the 2011 Data Capability Report (DCR) (Ref: 12/72936[v2]). The DCR was endorsed by the Assistant Director-General, Corporate Strategy and Performance on 3 April 2012 (Ref: 12/101728).
5. A copy of Queensland's Data Exception Report, outlining how calculation of performance measures aligns with the revised national data definitions, will be forwarded to DEEWR following submission of the 2011 Annual Report.
6. Measures are reported in line with agreed national performance indicator specifications. In addition, where measures have been consistently reported in a different way in previous years, these measures are again included in 2011 for comparability. Notes accompanying the figures clarify these matters.
7. Although the former Minister for Education announced that 69 per cent participation was achieved, the actual figure is 68 per cent, which exceeds the 65 per cent participation target. The revised figure is due to the use of updated data regarding estimated residential population of four year olds which is higher than previously reported estimates.
8. Following endorsement of the report, the figure of 68 per cent for participation in 2011 will be reflected in all relevant communications material.
9. Queensland has made significant progress in all performance areas including exceeding the target of 65 per cent of kindy-age children enrolled in a kindergarten program by the end of 2011.
10. All but one target was met or exceeded. A summary of progress against the 2011 performance benchmarks is detailed below.

Benchmark	2011 Target	2011 Actual
Proportion of children enrolled in an Early Childhood Education (ECE) program	65%	68%
Number of qualified teachers delivering ECE programs	1,120	1,082
Proportion of children enrolled in an ECE program that is available for at least 15 hours a week	57%	65%
Average number of hours per week of attendance at an ECE program	13.5 hours	20.4 hours
Proportion of all disadvantaged children enrolled in a kindergarten program	65%	69%
Proportion of all Indigenous children enrolled in a kindergarten program	47%	56%

11. It is important to note that consistent with previous years, there are likely to be minor changes or clarifications to the report following the Commonwealth's receipt of it.
12. Once accepted by DEEWR, they will publish the report online.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no legal implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. Acceptance of the 2011 Annual Report by the Australian Government will trigger a payment of \$48,798,500 to Queensland Treasury and Trade due by 7 July 2012.

MEDIA IMPLICATIONS

15. No proactive release proposed. Following endorsement of the report, all public messages will refer to 68 per cent kindergarten participation rather than 69 per cent with a rationale for the change made in the first release only.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

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

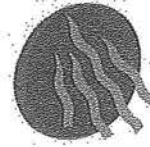
Executive Director: Carol Markie-Dadds

Signature: Approved	Date: 11/ 04 /2012
---------------------	--------------------

Deputy Director-General: Annette Whitehead

Signature: Sighted and signed	Date: 18/4/12
Recommended - <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Recommended - <input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:



24 APR 2012

Ms Kellie Hippit
Acting Branch Manager, Early Childhood Access and Infrastructure
Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Hippit

I apologise for the delay in providing you with Queensland's 2011 Annual Report, in accordance with Schedule 1 Part E of the Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.

Please find enclosed two copies of the signed 2011 Annual Report. An electronic copy together with a copy of the Data Exception Report will also be provided by email.

Queensland has made strong progress in 2011 towards achieving universal access to kindergarten, exceeding the participation target of 65 per cent. I look forward to your favourable consideration of Queensland's 2011 Annual Report in facilitating the next funding instalment of \$48,798,500 by 7 July 2012.

Should you require clarification on any matters regarding the 2011 Annual Report, I invite you to contact Ms Carol Markie-Dadds, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives and Engagement by email at carol.markie-dadds@deta.qld.gov.au or on telephone (07) 3239 3114.

Yours sincerely

Julie Grantham
Director-General

Ref: 12/18703

Enc: 2011 Annual Report (2 copies)

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	12/134289

Briefing Note

Chief of Staff

Office of the Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Action required: Note

Action required by: May 2012

Routine - The report was submitted to the Australian Government Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) on 24 April 2012 and, once accepted, will be published on their website.

SUBJECT: Public release of the *2011 Annual Report on the National Partnership for Early Childhood Education*

Summary of key objectives

- Advise of the forthcoming public release of Queensland's 2011 Annual Report (the report) on the *Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education*.
- Provide a summary of Queensland's achievements against the performance measures, demonstrating that Queensland has met or exceeded all but one performance measure.
- The report may attract public interest. Due to Queensland's strong performance it is anticipated this would be generally positive.

Key issues

1. The report was endorsed by the Director-General and submitted to the DEEWR on 24 April 2012 (**Attachment 1**). Acceptance of the report by DEEWR will result in the next scheduled payment of \$48,798,500 by 7 July 2012.
2. Consistent with previous years, DEEWR is likely to seek content clarifications before the report is accepted for final publication on DEEWR's website
3. Following DEEWR's acceptance of the report it will be published on their website. Publication is likely to occur in early May 2012.
4. Queensland has made significant progress in all performance areas and all but one target was met or exceeded. Notably, Queensland exceeded the target of 65 per cent of kindy-age children enrolled in a kindergarten program by the end of 2011. A summary of progress against the 2011 performance benchmarks is detailed below.

Benchmark	2011 Target	2011 Actual
Proportion of children enrolled in an Early Childhood Education (ECE) program	65%	68%
Number of qualified teachers delivering ECE programs	1,120	1,082
Proportion of children enrolled in an ECE program that is available for at least 15 hours a week	57%	65%
Average number of hours per week of attendance at an ECE program	13.5 hours	20.4 hours
Proportion of all disadvantaged children enrolled in a kindergarten program	65%	69%
Proportion of all Indigenous children enrolled in a kindergarten program	47%	56%

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	12/134289

5. Although the former Minister for Education and Industrial Relations announced that 69 per cent enrolment was achieved in 2011, the figure was revised to 68 per cent, which exceeds the 65 per cent enrolment target.
6. The revised figure is due to the use of updated data regarding the estimated residential population of four year olds which is higher than previously reported estimates. Queensland's public messages are being updated to reflect the 68 per cent enrolment figure.
7. Importantly, Queensland has moved from the 2008 baseline of 29 per cent to exceed the 2009, 2010 and now the 2011 target of 65 per cent enrolment, establishing consistently higher enrolment targets. Queensland's enrolment target for 2012 of 86 per cent is ambitious.
8. In addition to extra kindergarten services being rolled out, there are a range of initiatives underway to assist in meeting the 2012 target. Most significantly, commencing in January 2012, this includes a substantial increase in subsidies to address cost barriers for low-income families.

Implications

9. The next facilitation payment of \$48,798,500 is dependent on the Australian Government's acceptance of the report.
10. A media release noting Queensland's 2011 advances in achieving universal access to kindergarten programs, will be prepared for consideration.

Background

11. Queensland is a signatory to the *National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education* and the associated *Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education* (the Bilateral Agreement). Section E of the Bilateral Agreement requires submission of an Annual Report on progress against agreed measures.

Right to information

12. I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief are **suitable** for publication.

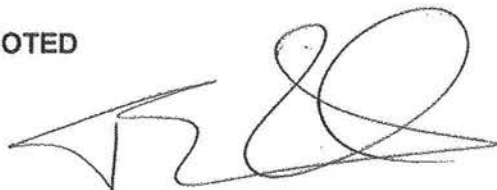
Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	12/134289

Recommendation

That the Chief of Staff:

- **note** the forthcoming public release of Queensland's *2011 Annual Report on the Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education*; and
- **note** that a media release regarding Queensland's 2011 achievements will be provided to your office.

NOTED



Fiona Crawford
 Chief of Staff
 Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
 Minister for Education, Training and Employment

815112 -

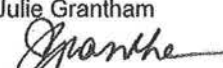
Principal Advisor's comments

Action Officer
 Kathrin Jensen
 Director
 Strategic Initiatives and
 Engagement
 Tel: 3406 7515

Endorsed by:
 Executive Director
 Carol Markie-Dadds
 Strategic Initiatives and
 Engagement
 Tel: 3239 3114
 Mob: [Disclosure would, on b]
 Date: 26/04/2012

Endorsed by:
 Deputy Director-General
 Annette Whitehead
 Policy Legislation and Early
 Childhood
 Tel: 3247 3365
 Mob: [Disclosure would, on b]
 Date: 27/4/12

Endorsed by:
 Director-General
 Julie Grantham
 Tel: 323 171070
 Mob: [Disclosure would, on b]
 Date: 1/5/12


 Date: 1/5/12