

Year in review



I am pleased to present the *Department of Education and Training Annual Report 2015–16*. The report outlines our achievements over the past year and sets out the department's key strategies to continue to lift education and training outcomes for all Queenslanders.

The 2015–16 year has been a busy one for the department and I am proud of what we have achieved.

The *Advancing education action plan* was launched for consultation in October 2015. It outlines our plans to deliver an outstanding education that supports young Queenslanders to develop the knowledge, skills and qualities they need for the future. *Advancing education* reflects our commitment to ensuring every child, student and young person is engaged in learning, achieving and successfully transitioning to further education and work. It is our plan to make sure Queenslanders have the skills for the jobs of the future in the knowledge-based economy.

The department conducted 19 community forums throughout Queensland to seek feedback on the plan. Overwhelmingly, Queenslanders told us we were on the right track and to continue the path we had set for advancing education. The revised *Advancing education action plan* was released on 30 June this year.

In early years, our focus for 2015–16 has been on:

- ensuring young Queenslanders have the best start to their early development and lifelong learning journey by supporting age-appropriate learning in Prep in state schools
- increasing the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children accessing a quality kindergarten program
- providing innovative options for quality kindergarten programs in rural and remote communities through the *Remote Kindergarten Pilot*.

In schooling, the \$9 billion investment announced in the State Budget reflects our continued commitment to ensure that education for young Queenslanders remains a top priority.

During 2015–16, the department focused on:

- ensuring our school children have the knowledge, skills and qualities they need to be future leaders by implementing the government's *Advancing education action plan* and *#codingcounts*
- increasing the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students successfully completing Year 12 and being awarded a 'Certification' — either a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)
- celebrating our best Certification results to date for our 2015 Year 12 cohort
- supporting the government's campaign for cultural and attitudinal change on domestic and family violence by encouraging schools to adopt the *Respectful Relationships Education* program.

Equipping Queenslanders with the skills to take advantage of opportunities to participate successfully in employment and grow our economy is a key priority for this Government.

During 2015–16, our training and skills focus has been on:

- continuing to support training and skills outcomes, particularly those of disadvantaged Queenslanders, through the reinstated *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, with

approximately \$60 million spent or committed for 384 community-driven projects and 260 full-time local council traineeship opportunities, and providing up to 14,000 Queenslanders with training to support increased job opportunities

- proclaiming the *Jobs Queensland Act 2015* and establishing the Jobs Queensland interim reference group and secretariat to engage with industry and provide strategic industry advice to government on skills demand and future workforce planning
- delivering the *Rescuing TAFE* initiative, including increased student support services, further opportunities for foundation skills development to disadvantaged learners, and improved regional support programs
- establishing more rigorous pre-qualified supplier processes to further enhance the quality of training delivered by training providers subsidised by the department
- developing a 10-year plan to ensure that state-owned training facilities best support training outcomes and address community needs
- setting up an independent Training Ombudsman to review and resolve concerns raised about the vocational education and training system.

I would like to thank our staff, partners and stakeholder groups for their ongoing support during 2015–16. In this time, the department consulted, liaised and worked collaboratively with parents, service agencies and all levels of government to deliver on key objectives and shape future directions.

This level of goodwill, enthusiasm and dedication to improving the education and training outcomes of Queenslanders is commendable.

I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to achieve great outcomes during 2016–17.

DR JIM WATTERSTON

Director-General