

# Year in review



I am pleased to present the Department of Education and Training Annual Report 2016–2017. This report highlights some of the great achievements that contribute to delivering the high performance education system that Queensland needs for a successful future.

Every day across the state we are meeting the diverse needs of over one million Queenslanders through our early years, schooling and training services.

In 2008 less than 30 per cent of Queensland’s children were participating in early years programs. I am pleased to report that in 2016 participation rates exceeded 95 per cent. We continue to work with all families to ensure kindergarten programs are accessed by all eligible Queensland children to give them the best start.

We are helping children transition smoothly from kindergarten to Prep by working closely with the early childhood sector and schools to explore ways to make it easier for families, and help schools support the learning and development of children during this critical stage.

In 2016 we have continued to make improvements across our system in key areas such as literacy and numeracy. We are supporting our schools in their improvement journey with additional staffing and better infrastructure. We are continuing to roll out the *Extra Teachers* initiative to ensure our students receive the support they need to get the very best from their education. The 2016–17 State Budget delivered \$667 million for school infrastructure including \$475 million for capital works and \$186.1 million for maintenance. The \$475 million capital works investment includes \$79 million to start construction of new state primary schools in Caloundra South, Coomera, Yarrabilba in Logan and Burdell in north-west Townsville.

Queensland’s improvement journey has seen an increase in the percentage of state school students completing Year 12 with a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA). We can also report that more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are completing Year 12 with a QCE or QCIA.

In Training and Skills, we have invested \$240 million in the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SQW) initiative to help up to 32,000 Queenslanders enter the workforce over four years. In May 2017, we launched the *Queensland VET Quality Framework*, outlining for the first time the government’s approach to the oversight of quality in vocational education and training (VET).

Underpinning these successes is our greatest asset—our people. I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank our staff for their commitment and hard work during the 2016–17 year. We should be proud of what we have achieved during this time.

By working together we continue to lift learning and skilling outcomes for every Queenslanders.

Dr Jim Watterston

**Director-General**