



Update 1 - April 2005

In this update:

- > School Counsellors
- > Capability Development Unit
- > Vocational and Enterprise Learning

Message from A/Executive Director Strategic Initiatives

Welcome to the monthly update of Building Better Schools. This update will provide you with relevant information about Building Better Schools initiatives and projects.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in a community engagement workshop held in late March. It was pleasing to see staff from across the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) identifying how we need to work together as an agency and with other agencies, to ensure we effectively consult and engage our stakeholders.

For the Building Better Schools initiatives to be successful we need to engage the 'grassroots' of the Department in the development and implementation of the projects. I look forward to your support in this regard.

John Glasby

Great News - School Counsellors in Schools

The exciting news for our schools and students is that under this initiative, secondary schools will now be able to have an above establishment qualified school counsellor. The allocation of counsellor positions in each secondary school will also enable the careers adviser positions to be used as intended.

It is also intended that the counsellors will work with feeder primary schools.

The School Counsellor Project will be led by Morris Bastian (Darwin) and Bettina Bettington (Alice Springs) from the Students Services Branch, as well as Peter Vaughan from the Building Better Schools Implementation Team.

- > Chief Executive's Student Forum Program
- > Collaborative Trials and Specialist Teacher Pools for Remote Schools

FIRST INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTED – Capability Development Unit

Congratulations to Ian Hopwood who will be heading up the Central Australia Capability Development Unit.

The expansion of the Capability Development Unit initiative will allow for support and direction to be given to identified schools in the south that are facing particular challenges.

Ian will be based in the Alice Springs office working with schools in the south offering support, mentorship and direction.

Vocational and Enterprise Learning

This initiative is aimed at improving the delivery of vocational and enterprise learning to all students.

Initial funding of \$375 000 has been provided in 2004-05 to expand the current VET in Schools program with an emphasis on programs that target areas of local relevance. This initial funding will increase to a total of \$750 000 from the 2005-06 financial year. Funds will also be available to establish enterprise programs to assist schools to work with their local communities to utilise the skills that students learn from their VET programs.

The grants this semester are intended to expand VET in Schools programs to remote students.

Employment and Training Division and Curriculum Services Branch will work together to facilitate the collaboration between schools and the community in the establishment of enterprise programs.

The project team will be led by John Hassed, Employment Services with assistance from staff from both Employment and Training Division and Curriculum Services Branch, and Peter Vaughan from the Building Better Schools Implementation Team.

MOVING THE TERRITORY AHEAD



Update 1 - April 2005

Collaborative Trials and Specialist Teacher Pools for Remote Schools

The Collaborative Trial Sites initiative has funding for up to 4 groups of schools to trial locally devised approaches to work together collaboratively to improve student outcomes. Funding has been provided for a coordinator to assist these schools. The trials will enable students to have better access to quality teaching and learning, and a wider range of secondary subjects.

At this stage, the Collaborative Trial Sites and the Specialist Teacher Pools for Remote Schools initiatives are linked. It is envisaged that some of the specialist teachers will support the establishment of the collaborative trial sites.

It is planned to have the secondary specialist teachers supporting the establishment of collaborative trial sites filled towards the end of this Semester. Planning at the school level will take place in Terms three and four, 2005. Collaborative trials will commence in the first semester of 2006.

Expressions of interest will be called for shortly from interested groups of schools. Schools Division will be assessing each application on merit and against specific criteria. Applications are likely to include an outline of the teaching and learning expectations, some initial idea of student numbers, community interest and consultation, and an idea of how schools may see the collaborative sites working together to improve student learning.

A project team will be led by Schools Division consisting of John Dove, Leanne Goldsworthy and Carol Penglase, Anna King (Consultancy Services), Sandy Cartwright (IT Services) and Peter Vaughan (Building Better Schools Implementation Team). The project team will be consulting with Indigenous Education Division in the development of this project.

Chief Executive's Student Forum Program

The Chief Executive's Student Forum Program initiative is aimed at improving opportunities for secondary students to develop their knowledge, skills and experience in leadership roles.

This program will provide an opportunity for groups of secondary students to have direct access to the Chief Executive of DEET. This will give students the opportunity to have meaningful input into the future directions of DEET policy and strategy, and to voice issues they would like DEET to consider.

A Coordinator will be appointed in Term two to manage the establishment of criteria, guidelines, the selection process and administration of program and funds. There will be opportunities for students to be involved in the development of the program.

The project team will be led by John Dove, Carol Penglase, and Leanne Goldsworthy from Schools Division, and Barb Hatton from the Building Better Schools Implementation Team.

Highlights for future updates:

- > Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting – making data count
- > Indigenous Scholarship and Mentorship Program
- > Learning Profiles
- > Professional Learning Communities
- > Distance Education

