



UPDATE 2 | May / June 2005

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Message from A/ED Strategic Initiatives

It has been good to see and hear about the amount of 'grassroots' participation in BBS initiatives, especially during the development of the projects. Congratulations must go to business areas that are moving the projects through DEET Executive Board. Thirteen of the fifteen projects listed for implementation this year (04/05) have already been endorsed. The remaining projects are due to be presented in July.

The BBS Implementation Team has presented and held discussions with a range of different groups across the Territory. It is pleasing to see the level of interest in the program and we would like to meet with as many groups as possible. So if you have an upcoming event or meeting, please contact the BBS Implementation Team and we'll arrange for myself or another member to attend.

I would also encourage you to visit the redeveloped web site. The upgrades include specific information around the projects, their current status and feedback options.

John Glasby

Data collection, analysis and reporting – Lets make data count

The aim of this project is to develop an effective data collection, management, analysis and reporting system, improve support services and better inform school communities and DEET.

The first phase of this project will be to determine:

- what data is currently collected and how we might use it
- what data we need/will need in the future

- the best system to collect and manage this information
- how to facilitate improved access to, and the analysis and reporting of data in DEET.

The implementation of any recommended system and associated tools and training will form the second phase of the project.

The project team will be led by Business Planning and Information Division consisting of Patrick Burford, Tim Egan, Godfrey O'Connor, John Baczynski, Bruce Dunn, as well as Tanya Ling (BBS Implementation Team).

Contact: Bruce Dunn, Ph 8999 5743 or email bruce.dunn@nt.gov.au

Staffing Formula

This initiative is aimed at developing a new School Staffing Allocation Model that will be based on principles of equity, transparency, flexibility and student need. Funding has been allocated for a Project Manager and congratulations to Jodie Woolcock who was recently appointed.

The AEU, CPSU, ANTSEL and CDU have been consulted in the development of the project brief and will continue to be involved in the development of the new model. Several working groups with school and office-based representation from across DEET will be established to develop each component of the new model.

Through the NTPS and CDU Partnership Agreement, DEET will have the support of Associate Professor Ibtisam Abu-Duhou, Principal Research Fellow in Education Economics. One of Professor Abu-Duhou interests is the development of needs-based school resource allocation formulae.

Business Information Services officers Karen Cieri, Jodie Woolcock and Patrick Burford, and Rex Symonds from Schools Division have introduced the project to principals through the May/June Cluster meetings across the Territory.

The project will be led by a team from the Business Planning and Information Division in conjunction with Schools Division.

Contact: Jodie Woolcock, Ph 8999 5806 or email: jodie.woolcock@nt.gov.au

MOVING THE TERRITORY AHEAD



Indigenous Students' Leadership and Mentorship Program

The Indigenous Students' Leadership and Mentorship Program (ISLMP) aims to expand the educational experiences and leadership opportunities of Indigenous secondary students. The program is targeted toward students who show they have a talent or have taken initiative, or show signs of potential high achievement in a range of areas of endeavour.

Former Darwin High School teacher Sarah Oppenheim has been appointed as the ISLMP Coordinator. Sarah has made progress with the development of the program, consulting with key business areas within DEET as well as some communities, including Kalkaringi, Elcho, Minyerri and Lajamanu. Sarah has also chatted to students, teachers, principals and school council chairpersons about how best the program might be implemented. Further discussions with stakeholders are continuing.

Indigenous secondary students will be encouraged to apply for one of 25 positions on the program when nominations are called for at the beginning of Semester 2, 2005. Successful applicants will have a mentor who will offer structured support and guidance to students as they progress through the program. It is expected that 100 Indigenous students will be participating in the program by 2009.

The project will be led by a team from Schools Division consisting of John Dove, Sarah Oppenheim and Leanne Goldsworthy, as well as Julie Donald (People and Learning Division), Joe Brown (Indigenous Education Division) and Barb Hatton (BBS Implementation Team).

Contact: Sarah Oppenheim, Ph 8901 1384 or email sarah.oppenheim@nt.gov.au

Professional Learning Communities

This initiative aims to develop networks of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) across the Territory to support teachers to develop and share models of best practice. PLCs will be established in identified priority areas both within schools and between schools.

Significant consultation has been undertaken in the development of this project. Two workshops were held in Darwin and Alice Springs in April to gain input from a range of key stakeholders into the development of the project. Representatives from Curriculum and Schools Portfolios Principals, Teachers of Exemplary Practice, Joint Council of Professional Associations, the Australian Education Union, Student Services, Curriculum Services and People and Learning Division attended these workshops.

Schools will receive information about how they can be involved in the professional learning communities project early in Term 3.

The project will be led by a team from Curriculum Service with support from the People and Learning Division.

Contact: Trish Hansen, Ph 8999 3759 or email trish.hansen@nt.gov.au

Distance Education

The aim of this project is to improve the quality and effectiveness of distance education by engaging external expertise to develop a new distance education model. The three Northern Territory distance education providers, Northern Territory Open Education Centre, Katherine School of the Air and Alice Springs School of the Air, the community and key stakeholders will be involved in the process.

Mr Gary Barnes, Assistant Director General of the Queensland Department of Education and the Arts has been seconded by DEET to undertake the consultation. Mr Barnes has extensive experience in working with distance and online learning, particularly in the rural and remote context. He will be assisted by Mr Phil Buchanan, who is experienced in implementing ICT technologies in education and in coordinating the most effective means of integrating these technologies in the delivery of effective teaching and learning.

Preliminary discussions have commenced with principals, staff and parents at the three distance education centres, and also with key stakeholders such as the AEU, COGSO and ICPA – to gain a first-hand perspective on what is already working and what can be improved to build a vision of what constitutes a leading edge distance education model for the NT. Options for future service provision will be developed and a final report, including an implementation plan and timelines, will be presented to DEET by the end of 2005.

Mr Barnes and Mr Buchanan will be returning to the Territory in August for further discussions with stakeholders to refine the options for how the model might look.

This project is being led by Mr Gary Barnes and Phil Buchanan in consultation with Sherrill Christensen (Northern Territory Open Education Centre), Jen Coad (Katherine School of the Air) and Jill Tudor (Alice Springs School of the Air) and John Glasby (Strategic Initiatives).

Contact: John Glasby, Ph 8999 5859 or email john.glasby@nt.gov.au

Highlights for future updates:

- > Learning Profiles
- > Vocational, enterprise and VET curriculum
- > Middle years approaches
- > Katherine School of the Air IDL Studio

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