



## UPDATE 4 | September 2005

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### Message from A/ED Strategic Initiatives

It has been a very busy month for BBS with many of the projects listed for implementation this year progressing well beyond the planning phase. Congratulations to the 25 students selected as inaugural participants on the Indigenous Students' Leadership and Mentorship Program (ISLMP). Congratulations also to ISLMP Project Coordinator Sarah Oppenheim, schools and staff involved in bringing these wonderful young people together in Darwin for the induction workshop, followed by an award ceremony at Parliament House.

Over the past two weeks the Middle Years consultants have conducted an exhaustive round of forums and workshops across all regions of the Territory. Many parents, students and teachers have taken the opportunity to contribute to discussions about what should constitute the principles and policy for middle years approaches to teaching and learning in the Northern Territory. In an effort to achieve maximum input from parents, an additional Parent Information Night will be held at Dripstone High School on Tuesday 18 October between 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Response so far at these forums has been positive and heartening, and augurs well for the future education of our young people.

**John Glasby**

### Data Collection and Reporting

This Building Better Schools initiative will provide meaningful and reliable data about the education and progress of Northern Territory students.

The project will improve the capacity of DEET to assemble information from schools and other operational systems in the department. It will result in better reporting to schools

and administrators, and will improve the department's ability to respond to requests for information and analysis.

This will be achieved by centralising information, currently held in various 'stand-alone' operational systems, into a 'Data Warehouse'. Information can then be processed and analysed to create timely and relevant reports to better inform parents, teachers, schools and the community. The initial phase of the project will include the collection and analysis of student level enrolment and attendance information. A reference panel of school principals has been established to provide guidance to the project. The panel consists of the Business Planning and Information Division Portfolio Principals, and principals from a representative sample of other schools.

Contact: Bruce Dunn on 8901 1389,  
or Godfrey O'Connor on 8901 1382.

### Professional Learning Communities

Curriculum Services received a significant number of high quality applications from groups of schools seeking to establish professional learning communities. The steering group for this project is currently assessing the applications, and schools will be notified of the outcome in early Term 4.

Consultants Viv White and John Hogan from Redgum Consulting, have been engaged to assist schools in establishing these communities. Viv has extensive experience in supporting schools to establish learning communities in her previous role as the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission and as a former National Coordinator of the Australian National Schools Network. John also has many years of successful work with teachers in a range of educational roles in Western Australia. His speciality is action research and case studies. Initial workshops with successful applicants to establish these learning communities will also commence in Term 4.

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

### Learning Profiles

Work has commenced on the Learning Profiles project. There are a number of elements in this project, one of which is the introduction of system-wide standards validation processes for teachers using the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework (NTCF). These processes are designed to give teachers guidance and support in making comparable assessments of student work across a range of learning areas at the various band levels of the NTCF.

*continued overleaf*

## MOVING THE TERRITORY AHEAD



The project team consists of representatives from Curriculum Service Branch and Information and Technology Services, with support from a reference group that includes representatives from Business Planning and Information Division and a teacher from both a primary and a secondary school.

Members of the team will be developing a model for system-wide standards validation in Term 4 of this year, with a view to commencing implementation in Semester 1 2006.

Contact: Trish Hansen, Ph 8999 3759 or email [trish.hansen@nt.gov.au](mailto:trish.hansen@nt.gov.au)

### **Expanding the Range of VET in Schools**

Project Managers Ann Roberts and Gillian MacDonald have commenced work in Curriculum Services, and are now supporting schools to expand the range of VET, vocational and enterprise learning within schools. They are currently working with officers in Employment and Training on a workshop to develop DEET's School to Work Strategic Plan. Key stakeholders and client representatives will be invited to take part in the workshop that is scheduled to take place early in Term 4.

Contact: Trish Hansen, Ph 8999 3759 or email [trish.hansen@nt.gov.au](mailto:trish.hansen@nt.gov.au)

### **Staffing Formula**

The Business Planning and Information Division Portfolio Principals, the Australian Education Union NT and Commonwealth Public Sector Union received an update on the development of the new School Staff Allocation Model in September. A database of current school staff allocations has been constructed to facilitate analysis of the distribution of school staff. This will inform the development of a prototype staff allocation model. The prototype will be constructed in the months ahead, and consultation with school administrators is planned for early 2006. Clusters are invited to put the new staff allocation model on the agenda for their first cluster meetings in February 2006. The model may also be a topic on the agenda at the Leaders' Forum in April 2006.

Contact: Jodie Woolcock, Ph 8999 5871 or email [jodie.woolcock@nt.gov.au](mailto:jodie.woolcock@nt.gov.au)

### **Indigenous Students' Leadership and Mentorship Program**

The 25 inaugural participants on the Indigenous Students' Leadership and Mentorship Program have been chosen and acknowledged by the Minister. The students selected are representative of the diverse range of urban and remote schools and locations from all regions of the Territory.

Students were selected with a range of talents. Some of these included students who are dedicated to learning and preserving their traditional culture, who play an active role in the precious cultural life of their communities, and who are looked up to and respected by others. Champion basketball and hockey players, gifted footballers, talented musicians who have formed their own bands and written and recorded albums of original songs – creative writers, aspiring doctors and young community leaders. There are future film directors,

contemporary dancers, committed volunteer workers and truly high achieving academic students. Also students who have topped their year levels in maths and science, and have demonstrated the ability to undertake challenging senior level study at an early age.

The students met in Darwin for an induction workshop where they learnt more about the concepts of leadership and mentorship, and spent time getting to know each other. Many of the students flew in from remote parts of the Territory to take part in the workshop and found the experience particularly rewarding.

The students will now begin the process of identifying a suitable mentor from their school or community.

Contact: Sarah Oppenheim, Ph 8901 1384 or email [sarah.oppenheim@nt.gov.au](mailto:sarah.oppenheim@nt.gov.au)

### **Qualified Counsellors**

The Professional Supervisor (P4) and 19 school counsellor positions (P2) will be advertised nationally and locally on the 22 October (Week 3 Term 4). It is intended that the Professional Supervisor will commence as soon as possible, with the school counsellors starting in January 2006. This will allow time for the counsellors to participate in an induction and orientation process before starting at their schools. Meetings are planned between Student Services, the General Manager Schools, and secondary school principals regarding the allocation of these counsellor positions.

Contact: Jodie Green, Ph 8999 8777 or email [jodie.green@nt.gov.au](mailto:jodie.green@nt.gov.au)

### **Chief Executive's Student Forum**

Following a series of successful focus groups with Darwin students, the Chief Executive's Student Forum planning is progressing. The Year 10, 11 and 12 students who took part in the focus groups had plenty to say about the sorts of issues they would like to explore and the way they think the forums should operate. Such constructive and enthusiastic feedback has informed a large part of the continued development of the program, and the students' contributions were greatly appreciated.

Plans are currently underway to hold a series of pilot forums over the next few months. The first of these pilot forums will be held in Darwin towards the end of November. Teachers will be asked to nominate suitable students to take part in these trial sessions and full details will be forwarded to schools in Term 4.

Contact: Sarah Oppenheim, Ph 8901 1384 or email [sarah.oppenheim@nt.gov.au](mailto:sarah.oppenheim@nt.gov.au)

### **Next edition**

- > Distance Education
- > Professional Learning Communities
- > Pools of Specialist Teachers
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