
QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION



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Monday 10 September 2007

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



CHAPTER BRIEFING No. 5

URGENT MEMBER MEETINGS PLANNED GOVERNMENT REPORT INTO DECKAS FUNDING MEMBERS INPUT VITAL

Dear Colleagues

The review of DECKAS funding is a critical issue for the community kindergarten sector and has far-reaching implications for the future of the sector. The consultants' report is now open for consultation for a limited period and QIEU is conducting an urgent consultation with its members. Your attendance at one of our scheduled consultation meetings is requested.

Queensland Government consultation process completed

The Queensland Government appointed the Allen Consulting Group to undertake the review of DECKAS funding and to consult with the various stakeholders within the sector. The Allen Consulting Group undertook a process of consultation using focus groups, face-to-face meetings with major stakeholders, such as QIEU and a sector wide survey of community kindergartens.

A significant number of QIEU members participated in QIEU's recent preliminary survey on DECKAS funding and this informed our initial submission to the consultant. A full copy can be obtained from our website at www.qieu.asn.au

QIEU members have made clear statements through their returns of the preliminary survey that quality of education should be the paramount consideration. Education is the fundamental focus of Community Kindergartens and any consideration of a DECKAS funding model which does not acknowledge this fact would be fatally flawed.

Allen Consulting Group - Preliminary Options

The Allen Consulting Group has finalized their report and had identified three preliminary options, under three headings: Governance, Funding Parameters and Operational Issues.

1 Governance

Options

- 1a An independent statutory Education Board supported by Department of Education, Training and Arts
- 1b Consolidated DECKAS and other Early Childhood, Education and Care responsibilities in Department of Education, Training and Arts or Department of Communities
- 1c Modified Status Quo

2 Funding Parameters

Options

- 2a Retain current scope for DECKAS funding eligibility and lump sum grant per kindergarten
- 2b Fund per child and regulate quality across all not for profit kindergartens
- 2c DECKAS + Child Care Benefit funding in the profit and not-for-profit sectors

3 Operational Issues

Options

- 3a New community kindergartens in areas with high demand and high population growth
- 3b New community kindergartens in areas determined by the Needs Based Planning Resource Allocation Framework
- 3c New community kindergartens in areas determined by integrated planning

C&K Inc Meetings

We are aware of meetings being conducted by C&K Inc. QIEU received an informal invitation to attend these meetings but in light of our consultation meetings and survey process we have underway our energies will be directed to having direct discussions with our membership as is appropriate.

QIEU member feedback vital

As part of the reference group, QIEU will have an opportunity to provide written feedback on the three options. This feedback is required by the Queensland Government by 28 September 2007.

QIEU members will be forwarded a survey this week in a separate mailing which seeks your comment on the various options outlined in the report.

Please return the survey by **MONDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2007.**

Regional Early Childhood Meetings

Urgent QIEU Regional Organising Committee (ROCs) meetings of QIEU members have been scheduled for members to give advice on these proposal options. A regional teleconference has also been arranged. Details of these meetings are attached.

At these meetings, details of the report to the government from the Allan Consultancy Group will be outlined and member response sought.

Given the critical nature of the issues facing early childhood education employees, member attendance at the upcoming meetings is vital in order for you to have your say in the matters which affect our working lives and conditions.

Please ensure at least one person from your Centre attends one of these meetings and attendees should RSVP to the meeting contact person listed.

I look forward to your attendance at these meetings as we continue to assist members in protecting our rights at work and addressing the issues of concern within the early childhood education sector.

Kind regards



**TERRY BURKE
GENERAL SECRETARY**



Regional Early Childhood Union Meetings

DECKAS REVIEW MEETINGS

QIEU is seeking feedback from Early childhood education professionals across Queensland are invited to attend ROC meetings across Queensland

All meetings are scheduled for 3.30pm with a 4.00pm start and QIEU members are asked to ensure that at least one person from your Centre attends a ROC meeting in your area.

Regional members based **outside of South East Queensland** are invited to take part in a teleconference on **Tuesday 18th September at 4 pm**. Regional members are encouraged to contact Jan Rymer prior to the close of business Monday 17th September on 1800 177 937 or email jrymer@qieu.asn.au with telephone contact details to ensure they are contacted for the teleconference.

Please RSVP to the relevant contact person listed for the meeting you wish to attend.

The details of the meetings and venues are as follows:

Region	Date	Place	Contact Person
Brisbane Inner North	Monday 17 th September	Emily Foord Memorial Kindergarten 26 Rhodes St, Stafford	Sheree Shannon 3857 5508
St Lucia	Monday 17 th September	St Thomas' Riverview Kindergarten 186 Macquarie Street, St Lucia	Suzanne Burdon 3371 1556
Gold Coast	Tuesday 18 th September	Connor Street Café Burleigh	Mary Coburn 5535 1557
Regional Teleconference	Tuesday 18 th September	Teleconference	Jan Rymer 1800 177937 jrymer@qieu.asn.au
Brisbane North	Wednesday 19 th September	Pine Rivers Kindergarten 22-30 Harding St, Kallangur	Wendy Anderson 3285 2309
Ipswich	Wednesday 19 th September	Roderick Street Kindergarten 20 Roderick St, Ipswich	Carolyn Moore 3281 5951
Sunshine Coast	Thursday 20 th September	Memorial Park Kindergarten 83 Memorial Avenue, Maroochydore	Jennifer Czislowski 5443 1661
Brisbane South	Thursday 20 th September	Sunnybank Kindergarten 101 Lister Street, Sunnybank	Robyn Lane 3345 1958