

Supporting successful transitions

newsletter

EDITION 1

Welcome

Welcome to the first instalment of *Supporting successful transitions*. This newsletter will be sent to all Queensland state schools quarterly to support the planning and implementation of transition to school strategies and practices that meet the unique needs of their communities.

Each instalment will prioritise an aspect of the *School decision-making tool*. In this issue we focus on *effective use of data* - one of the five action areas described in the tool.

Schools are encouraged to access a range of data to inform their transition planning, including demographic information, current and historical school data, community information and Australian Early Development Census data (AEDC). Draw on your State School Early Childhood Data Profile recently distributed to schools to support transition planning. Refer to the new information sheet in this folder to learn more about using this data profile.

In this section you will also find a case study from Far North Queensland in which Regional Director Deb Dunstone shares some key strategies which are driving improved outcomes in her region through strategic use of data.

In each instalment we will continue to share new transition resources and information to enhance implementation of the *School decision-making tool* and to support your communication with families, early childhood education and care partners and community organisations.

Look out for the next pack arriving shortly with resources for you to share with families as they inquire about Prep at your school.

Dr Mary Lincoln
Director, Early Learning Pathways



Successful transitions



As principals you play a vital role in your community in fostering and strengthening relationships that are responsive to your unique context and your families. The establishment of these relationships

is a core component of the department's statewide approach to supporting successful transitions to school.

Earlier this year all state schools were provided with the *Supporting Successful Transitions: School decision-making tool* that outlines Queensland's position on transition to school. The tool identifies the principles that underpin effective transitions and the areas of practice that support this process. I expect all state schools to use this tool to ensure Queensland children have a positive start to school and prosper as successful learners.

We are now moving into the second stage of the transition initiative in which we are ramping up statewide communications with both schools and families. The aim of this newsletter and accompanying transition folder is to prompt and support further discussion and planning within your school and with your transition partners. The transition folder includes copies of the department's transition resources and examples of new promotional materials which will be forwarded to your school shortly for you to share with families of children starting Prep. These materials will ensure that families are informed of what they can expect when they enrol their child in a Queensland state school.

Under the leadership of Dr Mary Lincoln, Director Early Learning Pathways (ELP), you will receive a *Supporting successful transitions* newsletter each term with the latest news on the transitions initiative. The newsletter will be accompanied by further resources to add to your folder to build a rich compilation of local and statewide transition materials. The resources will include fact sheets elaborating on each of the action areas of the decision-making tool and case studies showcasing the great transition work of selected principals and schools from across the state. The ELP team will continue to work with regional early childhood education and care (ECEC) transition teams in shaping further transition strategies and gathering examples of effective transition practices.

I strongly urge you to prioritise your work in supporting successful transitions and to take advantage of the range of strategies implemented to assist you. Contact your regional ECEC Director, Transition and Partnership, and Innovation Officers who are available to support you with transitions. Access the full range of resources on the *Successful transitions* web pages which include video vignettes of effective approaches to transitions.

Supporting successful transitions is everyone's business. I look forward to hearing your school's story. We must all work together to ensure our children enjoy a positive start to school and continued success.

Dr Jim Watterston
Director-General
Department of Education and Training



Supporting successful transitions: School decision-making tool

The **principles** and **action areas** identified in the *Supporting successful transitions: School decision-making tool* complement the areas for action identified in *Every student succeeding – State Schools Strategy 2014–2018*. The tool also details the intended **outcomes** to be achieved for children and families as a result of engagement with the principles and action areas.

Use the *Decision-making matrix* provided on pages 11-13 in the *Decision-making tool* to identify your school's strengths and areas for further enhancement. The matrix is built around the five areas for action.

School decision-making tool



Upcoming events

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority is running workshops to support and promote continuity of learning in the early years of schooling.

Register here:

<https://events.qcaa.qld.edu.au/Catalogue.aspx?yl=4>

The next AEDC Forum will be held on 20 October 2015 at the Sunshine Coast.

Learn more here: <http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/news/sector-reports/aedc.html>

Get in touch

For any questions about this newsletter or to submit an article, contact the Early Learning Pathways team on 332 86704 or Transitions@deta.qld.gov.au



More support

Regional Transition and Partnership and Innovation Officers are available to help schools with their transition planning.

Find the contact details for appointed offices in your region via this page on OnePortal:

<https://oneportal.deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/forschools/Pages/Transitiontoschoolsupportcontacts.aspx>

Access information and a range of resources including video vignettes via the *Successful transitions* web pages on the ECEC website: www.qld.gov.au/transitiontoschool