



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

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IPSWICH PREP SET FOR 2007 START: NOLAN

Queensland's new Preparatory Year will give all young Queenslanders the very best start to school by helping them make a smooth transition to Year 1 and setting them on the path to lifelong learning the Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said while visiting Churchill school today to view the new Prep buildings.

The Queensland Government has allocated \$350 million to refurbish existing classrooms and build new classrooms and Ipswich primary schools are in a building frenzy with work underway on new and refurbished buildings to host the first Queensland prep students next year.

“Currently under trial at Silkstone and Ipswich Girls’ Grammar School where classes are already reaping the benefits, prep will become state wide at the beginning of 2007.

“As well as Churchill, there will be new buildings at Central, Blair, Ipswich East, Raceview and Silkstone State Schools with a refurbishment just completed at the historic Ipswich West State School.

“Prep will bring hundreds of extra students into Queensland schools with more than 100 new teachers being employed to meet the demand.”

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan has said that while not compulsory, prep will be taken up by the majority of families and will mark the biggest change to education in a generation.

There is compelling evidence that prep improves educational outcomes, ensuring more students learn social skills, literacy and numeracy.

