



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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#### **NEW PREP CLASSROOMS ALMOST COMPLETE**

New classrooms at two local state schools are almost complete in readiness for the intake of Prep students next year.

Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, said the new facilities were among more than 1600 Prep classrooms being built or refurbished as part of the largest single school building program in Queensland's history.

"They include a new two-storey, four-classroom building at Ipswich Central State School built at a cost of \$1.3 million, and a \$490,000 two-classroom building at Blair State School," Ms Nolan said.

"The classrooms have been designed to make Prep enjoyable for young students by offering an environment that encourages learning through play.

"They make good use of natural light and ventilation and consist of an open space for group activities, a carpeted area for storytelling and singing, and a 'wet' area for painting and building.

"Students will also have access to a kitchenette and outdoor learning and play areas.

"I encourage any parents whose children are eligible for Prep in 2007 to contact their local school to make enrolment arrangements."

Education Minister, Rod Welford, said 2007 would be a landmark year for Queensland schooling with the introduction of the full-time, non-compulsory Preparatory Year in state, Catholic and independent schools.

"It will be an exciting time for the estimated 25,000 young children born between January and June 2002 who will start the Prep Year at more than 1,300 Queensland state and non-state schools," he said.

"Prep is based on a 'play and inquiry' approach to learning that has been used successfully in Queensland preschools.

"Children learn when they play because they're making decisions, solving problems, communicating and developing thinking skills."