

# School revitalisation – the IDEAS Way

ARE you looking for a School Revitalisation Process in 2007?

- Are you keen to develop:
- teacher leadership through Parallel Leadership
  - a collaboratively developed, clearly articulated 'futuristic' direction (Vision) for your school community
  - a schoolwide pedagogical framework linked to your vision
  - a cohesive professional learning community regularly engaged in pedagogically focused professional dialogue
  - a strategic planning and organisational framework?

If so, perhaps you need to consider engaging in the IDEAS Project, a two-year school revitalisation process supported by DETA through the Principal Project Officer IDEAS and members of the IDEAS Support Team – expert and experienced school-based personnel who've facilitated IDEAS in their school.

**IDEAS** (Innovative Designs for Enhancing Achievements in Schools) is a comprehensive approach to school revitalisation that recognises the extraordinary complexity and subtlety of teaching. It provides ways of illuminating teachers' successful practices and creating new levels of meaning.

The key features that distinguish IDEAS from most other school development approaches are:

- the Research-based Framework for Enhancing School Outcomes
- the *ideas* process
- parallel leadership
- three-dimensional pedagogy.

The IDEAS Vision is 'To inspire IDEAS schools to engage in journeys of self-discovery which will ensure that they achieve sustainable excellence in teaching and learning'.

The IDEAS Process is a unique approach to school revitalisation which provides a central focus on



outcomes, is grounded in school research into successful school restructuring in Queensland state schools and introduces the concept of 'alignment' of essential school functions, such as strategic vision, teaching and learning, community expectations, work practices and professional learning.

The *ideas* process is a highly disciplined approach to whole-school revitalisation that involves schools progressing through five phases:

**initiating:** resolving to become an IDEAS school, establishing a management team and appointing an IDEAS school-based facilitator/s;

**discovering:** revealing your school's most successful practices and key challenges through diagnostic analysis;

**envisioning:** picturing a preferred future for your school – an inspirational vision and an agreed approach to pedagogy;

**actioning:** implementing plans to align school practices with your school's revitalised vision and pedagogical framework;

**sustaining:** keeping the revitalisation process going by building on successes.

DETA delivery of IDEAS involves school communities undertaking their own journey through the *ideas* process, supported by facilitator workshops, schools visits, cluster meetings, teleconferences, access to comprehensive IDEAS resources within the IDEAS website and local and national learning forums where IDEAS schools come together to share, celebrate and extend their work.

IDEAS schools report that their work in IDEAS enables them to engage with and address Education Queensland's strategic reforms in meaningful ways, relevant to their unique school context, and to

achieve collective responsibility for their school outcomes.

Recent *Education Views* articles feature the work of a number of IDEAS schools, particularly the October 6 edition, highlighting the **actioning** phase through the work of four IDEAS schools.

Currently, there are four IDEAS Clusters operating in Queensland – Laidley (10 schools), Greater Brisbane (six schools), North Queensland (three schools) and Toowoomba (four schools) in conjunction with 10 Catholic schools.

In 2007-08 it is intended that new clusters will be determined and it is anticipated that delivery will commence in March 2007. An Expression of Interest Process will be conducted to determine these clusters. This process will be available statewide to all Education Queensland schools on November 20 2006, and will be distributed to principals via email.

Criteria for becoming an IDEAS school include:

- a time commitment of four semesters (two years)
- school acceptance of responsibility for facilitation of its own revitalisation, with external support
- acceptance of the principle of Parallel Leadership
- allocation of time for facilitation of the process
- budget allocation – a per semester fee, teacher release and professional development activities.

For further information regarding this EOI Process or the IDEAS Project please contact Sharon Taylor, Principal Project Officer IDEAS on email Sharon.Taylor@qed.qld.gov.au, consult the IDEAS website at <http://ideas.esq.edu.au> (Site Navigation/Presentation/IDEAS Presentation), or await delivery of the EOI Package on November 20 2006.

# Gold Coast student wins 2006 Student of the Year

A GOLD COAST student with her heart set on becoming a world-class singer and entertainer was named 2006 Teen Challenge Student of the Year last month in Brisbane.

Category winners in the statewide awards included a Sunshine Coast student who has developed a computer software program recognised as a breakthrough in agricultural genetics technology and a primary school student who has already had major roles in three short films and a support role in a mini-series currently screening overseas.

Alexandra Ward, a Year 10 student at Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School, beat a strong field of contenders to take home the ultimate accolade in the annual awards. Alexandra also won the Teen Challenge Visual & Performing Arts Award, one of eight award categories in the statewide awards program.

The 15-year-old student has overcome significant challenges on the road to pursuing her dream to become an entertainer.

Born into a musical family, her uncle was a member of the Australian Opera Company, Alexandra has been singing since she was two years old. Because of her father's illness, her family did not have the financial resources to allow Alexandra to attend music lessons, so this determined young woman has been downloading singing tuition via the Internet.

More recently, she has taken on a part-time job which allows her to pay for two singing lessons each month.

Alexandra's determination has paid off. She has been awarded two music scholarships including one of only two awarded Australia-wide to QUT Stage & Screen.

A young woman with a strong sense of community, Alexandra also volunteers significant time to perform in local nursing homes, hospitals and churches.

Teen Challenge Executive Director Alan Le May said Alexandra was an inspirational role model with a real determination to succeed in life, despite significant challenges.

'Alexandra epitomises what these awards celebrate,' Mr Le May said.

'The Teen Challenge Student of the Year Awards recognise young people with great spirit who have achieved their personal best, often in the face of significant hardship.'

Alexandra is one of 13 young Queenslanders who performed recently at a Melbourne fashion show. The group has been drawn from participants in *Muso Magic*: an Education Queensland initiative for students to learn about song writing, music production and performing.

Mr Le May said the calibre of entrants in this year's awards was exceptional. Finalists included a senior student already on her way to pursuing a career in foreign journalism, a Year 10 student who was placed equal first in Australia in the Maths Challenge for Young Australians and the School Captain of Stanthorpe State High School who is the 2007 Rotary Exchange Student for Belgium.

The Teen Challenge Student of the Year Awards are open to all Queensland students from Years 5 to 12. Teen Challenge Queensland, which conducts the Awards, provides a range of services for young people at risk and in crisis, including in-school programs, a drug-overdose intervention program in conjunction with the Queensland Ambulance Service, and a long-term residential drug rehabilitation program.

**Winners of the 2006 Teen Challenge Student of the Year Awards are:**

- Overall Student of the Year and Teen Challenge Visual & Performing Arts Award – Alexandra Ward, Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School.
- QUT Senior Years of Schooling Award – Andrea Schaul, Mareeba State High School.
- Caring for Natural Resources Award – Jessica Coats, Fairholme College, Toowoomba.
- XPONENTIAL Middle Years of Schooling Award – Ryan Sheldrake, Kimberley Park State School.
- Education Queensland School Vocational Education Award – Luke Norford, Kirwan State High School.
- Teen Challenge Community Service Award – Jacey Kessels, Westside Christian College.
- Holden Science And Technology Award – Luke Pembleton, Nambour State High School.
- Sports And Recreation Queensland Sports Award – Mellissa Wu, Christian Outreach College, Brisbane.



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