16 July 2014

Education challenges spur spike in school leadership programs

To meet the continued demand for improved student outcomes, teachers and education leaders are heading back to the classroom themselves, with the Queensland Education Leadership Institute (QELi) recording a 48% spike in enrolments last financial year.

Education leaders are also reporting that QELi’s professional development programs are increasingly valuable, with the average program rating climbing from 4.5 out of 5 in 2012-13 to 4.6 out of 5 in 2013-14.

During the past financial year, QELi conducted 70 programs for 1,716 current and aspiring school leaders from across Queensland, Australia and internationally, up from 1,150 the previous year.

QELi CEO Dr Stephen Brown said significant changes to education systems continued to drive demand for programs that gave school leaders the skills they needed to manage change and make a difference in their communities.

He said further growth was expected this financial year as schools sought to maximise their finite resources while improving student outcomes.

“QELi’s leadership development programs have not only captured the sector’s attention across Queensland, but we have also attracted participants from across Australia and as far afield as Thailand, The Philippines and Nauru,” he said.

“QELi programs assist school leaders to be fully prepared to deal with the complexities of implementing school improvement, particularly through effective and positive management of teacher performance.

“Leadership development remains the single most successful way of improving school performances as it fosters highly successful school leaders who can create and fulfil aspirations and expectations.”

Dr Brown said demand for customised programs was also increasing as the sector tackled specific issues, priorities and challenges.

During 2013-14, QELi conducted customised programs for Education Queensland, Catholic Dioceses in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, and Independent schools across Australia.

“A growing number of leading Australian universities are also granting academic credit for QELi programs, reflecting the strong foundation our programs have in contemporary research and practice,” he said.

“The continual professional development of teachers is an priority for the sector. Our focus is on providing the programs and pathways that help good teachers become great teachers.”
More information on QELi’s programs is available at: www.qeli.qld.edu.au/

Established as a not-for-profit organisation in June 2010, QELi helps develop education leaders to improve student outcomes. Attracting participants from across Australia and the world, it is a partnership between the Queensland Department of Education and Training, Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland.