

**PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS, 2009 to 2012
INVITATION FOR SCHOOLS TO BE SURVEYED**

From 2006, programs within the NSW Department of Education and Training that support schools serving high concentrations of low socio-economic status (SES) families were incorporated into Priority Schools Programs (PSP). These programs include the Priority Schools Funding Program and the Priority Action Schools Program.

Schools are identified for PSP from a voluntary survey of school communities conducted every four years. The current list of schools supported by PSP will expire at the end of 2008. This list of schools can be viewed on the PSP website www.psp.nsw.edu.au.

A survey of school communities will take place in the week of 3 to 7 March 2008, and for those schools who commence the school year one week later in the week of 10 to 14 March 2008, to identify schools for PSP funding from 2009 to 2012.

The PSP Survey:

- is an established process that is transparent, rigorous and fair
- will protect the anonymity of families
- will occur earlier in the year than on previous occasions
- form has been simplified and is easy to understand
- will give a high quality result.

Your school is invited to participate in the 2008 PSP Survey. The participation of your school and its parents and caregivers is voluntary. I encourage your school community to take part.

Schools assisted by PSP funding from 2009 to 2012 will receive additional funding, staffing and consultancy support. This funding will help schools to focus on improving literacy, numeracy and participation outcomes for students.

Please note that certain schools are not eligible for PSP. Only schools which meet the following criteria can be placed on the program:

- student enrolments at the school are full-time
- student enrolments are long-term, that is greater than twelve months
- students are not enrolled at any other school

- the school serves a distinct, discrete and identifiable community which can be surveyed
- the institution is an identifiable school which can apply whole-school programs to its students.

When your school participates in the survey, you will be expected to:

- administer the survey to the families of students enrolled in specified school years, including photocopying material in some languages other than English
- develop and take actions to encourage a response rate of families of 85 per cent or greater in order to maximise the statistical validity of your school's data
- package and forward survey envelopes returned by families for electronic scanning.

The attached information may assist your school community to understand further the commitment required to administer the survey.

All responses will be held in strictest confidence and no family or school details will be released publicly.

Any school considering participation in the 2008 PSP Survey can request assistance from regional PSP consultants and partnership officers. There will also be a PSP Survey stand at the *Leading & Achieving* PSP Conference where helpful information can be obtained by schools attending.

Your school's community must be consulted before making the decision to nominate for the PSP Survey. The preferred mode of nomination is online at www.psp.nsw.edu.au. If circumstances prevent online nomination, please complete the enclosed nomination form.

The closing date for school nominations is **17 September 2007**. Further information regarding the PSP Survey will then be sent to you during Term 4 2007 and February 2008.

Enquiries may be directed to Graham Mosely, on telephone number 9244 5385 or by email at graham.mosely@det.nsw.edu.au.

Robyn McKerihan

**GENERAL MANAGER
ACCESS AND EQUITY**
30 July 2007