

Preface

The purpose of the *Students' Transition from Primary to Secondary Schooling* study was to investigate what it is like for students when they move from primary to secondary schooling, as a basis for establishing to what extent this transition may be a problem for some or all students and to identify ways in which to make this transition more successful for students.

This report is one of a series of three from the study. Each of the three reports has a different focus and addresses specific research questions.

As the title suggests, the present report, *Students' Achievement as they Transition from Primary to Secondary Schooling*, focuses specifically on students' achievement in mathematics, reading and writing at this particular period of their schooling, including factors that seem to most impact on their achievement.

The second report, *The Case of Emily: A Focus on Students as they Transition from Primary to*

Secondary Schooling, details the experiences of 'Emily' before, during and at two points following the Year 8 to Year 9 transition. Data from all other participating students are also included. The report illustrates how the majority of students in our study made a good overall transition. It also provides important insights into the difficulties that students can encounter during their schooling.

The final report, *Easing the Transition from Primary to Secondary Schooling: A Resource Document*, which will be available later in 2008, contains 'practical suggestions' arising from the study findings, taking into account contributions from participating principals, teachers, students and parents. The report has a particular emphasis on students most likely to experience difficulties in their transition to secondary schooling, including insights from teachers, parents, and others on the characteristics of students they think are most and least likely to make to a successful transition.