

press clip



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## Six-week teachers due soon

**Tanya Chilcott**  
SCHOOLS REPORTER

A CONTROVERSIAL program training teachers for just six weeks before they enter a classroom could be starting as early as next year, it has been revealed.

In a letter to *The Courier-Mail*, Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard reveals 2011 as the proposed start-date for the Teach for Australia program in Queensland.

The Federal Government is supporting Teach for Australia, which takes top-performing professionals and graduates from non-teaching fields and trains them in an intensive six-week course.

They are then placed in classrooms in disadvantaged high schools with a reduced workload, to allow them to complete a two-year postgraduate dip-



**Julia Gillard**

loma part-time. Ms Gillard said the program was "quite the opposite" from "a slap in the face", as claimed by University of the Sunshine Coast head of education Dr Michael Nagel.

"We believe the very best and brightest graduates, whatever their field of study, can be great teachers and will be fantastic at motivating students to bring out their best," Ms Gillard said.

"Associates are not given six weeks of training and then left to their own devices in schools. They undertake two years of ongoing study and support, in addition to the intensive six-week training component, where they will benefit from ongoing mentoring from in-school mentors and support from educational advisers."