

**Question on Notice**  
**No. G1**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to 3-58 of the Service Delivery Statement. Could the Minister please provide an outline of the total education budget provided by the Queensland Government, and the comparison with last year's budget?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2011–12 the Department of Education and Training will invest \$8.799 billion in recurrent funding compared with \$8.179 billion in 2010–11 (an increase of 7.6 per cent).

Of this, the Bligh Government will spend a record operational budget of almost \$7.4 billion in 2011–12 to continue its education reform agenda and to give all young Queenslanders a flying start to learning and life.

This record investment will deliver new and renewed schools, more teachers and teacher aides, and continued support for students with special needs and represents an increase of almost 9 per cent from last year.

The budget includes funding for the transitioning of Year 7 to secondary in 2015, as part of the new *Flying Start* initiative.

The Department will continue to progress its commitment to provide up to 240 kindergarten services by 2014, including fast-tracking 40 kindergarten services originally scheduled for 2013 and 2014, to construct 85 new services by the end of 2012.

The budget also provides for the employment of up to 300 extra full-time equivalent teachers and teacher aides in state schools to meet enrolment growth and support students with special needs, as well as creating an extra 5,000 teacher aide hours each week by investing \$24.5 million to complete our \$43 million, three-year commitment for an additional 15,000 teacher hours weekly to support Prep to Year 7 students.

The Department has allocated funding of \$26.2 million under the \$72.3 million, three-year, Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan to enable our literacy and numeracy coaches to continue their work in 175 state schools.

In addition, the State Government will also spend more than \$487 million on infrastructure in schools and kindergartens.

This investment builds on the five-year State Schools of Tomorrow initiative, which resulted in more than 1,620 classroom refurbishments, about 150 science lab refurbishments and new school facilities around the State.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. G2**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

At 3-57 of the Service Delivery Statement there is reference to the significant education reform transitioning Year 7 to secondary school from 2015. Can the Minister please advise how this will enhance educational opportunities for Queensland students?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Bligh Government's commitment to delivering world-class education and training has prompted major educational reforms for state, Catholic and independent schools.

The Government's Education White Paper – *A Flying Start for Queensland Children* outlines the future for education in this state. This significant reform agenda will boost performance for all schools and provide support in getting children ready for learning and life.

The most significant change will be the move of Year 7 to secondary from 2015.

These reforms are the centrepiece of this years State Budget with significant investments in the state and non-state sectors to build new classrooms to accommodate the move of Year 7, as well as funding extra teaching resources + support teachers, and developing programs to make the transition to high school easier for students.

By 2015 more than half the students in Year 7 will turn 13 during that year. Educators agree that young teenagers are ready for greater independence and the depth of learning that high schools provide. The Government is convinced that these adolescents will flourish best in a secondary environment – especially if they are challenged and supported in the Junior Secondary years.

From 2012 Queensland is adopting the new Australian Curriculum for the subjects of English, mathematics and science. The national curriculum will mean greater consistency in what children of the same age across all states are studying.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring our Year 7 students have the same learning opportunities as their interstate counterparts. States like New South Wales and Victoria already teach Year 7 in high school, giving those students access to specialist teachers and facilities such as science laboratories.

With Year 7 moving, Queensland students will be on a level playing field. They will be best placed to maximise their academic potential and have their developmental needs supported.

In addition to providing Year 7 students with access to specialist teachers and facilities, the Government will introduce Junior Secondary for Years 7, 8 and 9, to ensure the bridge between primary and secondary school is safe, strong and consistent for all students.

Junior Secondary will focus on age-appropriate education, and support for students' wellbeing and transition in the early years of high school. Under six guiding principles, Junior Secondary will provide challenging educational offerings that engage young adolescents, while giving them a sense of belonging and support through the changes they face.

## Question on Notice

No. G 3

Asked on 29 June 2011

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

### QUESTION:

I refer to 3-57 of the Service delivery Statement and the Flying Start initiative. Can the Minister please advise how students would have greater access to specialist teachers to support their educational needs under this initiative?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Government's Education White Paper – *A Flying Start for Queensland Children*, will strengthen the state's existing education framework and bring about exciting changes in secondary schooling.

Developed following extensive community consultation, the reform initiatives have been supported by education sectors, parent representatives and key stakeholders.

The initiatives canvassed in the Education White Paper are the next step in the Queensland Government's ten-year vision to improve the education system in our state.

*A Flying Start for Queensland Children* focuses on three main objectives — getting ready for school, getting ready for secondary school and boosting performance for all schools.

For young adolescents these changes centre around Year 7 becoming the first year of high school.

These reforms are at the core of the State Budget with a commitment to progressively implement Flying Start initiatives through an investment of \$328.2 million to assist state schools to prepare facilities for the move of Year 7 to secondary and \$293.8 million in recurrent funding, including \$81.3 million in capital assistance to the non-state sector.

Placing Year 7 in the secondary school environment, with access to specialist teachers and facilities, such as science teachers and laboratories, will better position Queensland students to take advantage of the new Australian Curriculum. It will also provide the variety, intellectual challenge and age-appropriate support that adolescents need during this important life phase.

Teaching staff will be equipped with specialist subject knowledge and the skills to foster the social and emotional development of students in the Junior Secondary years.

To fill the anticipated demand for specialist and Junior Secondary teachers, the government will offer up to 500 scholarships for state school primary teachers to undertake study to prepare them for this role.

In addition, the Bligh Government will provide on-the-job training for preservice teachers in state schools and professional development for practising teachers at five Teacher Education Centres of Excellence. The comprehensive professional development package for Junior Secondary teachers will ensure they are well-equipped to work with young adolescents in high school.

The Department of Education and Training will also work with universities to tailor education courses so teachers are ready to meet the new arrangements. This avenue will also inform student teachers of the growing demand for Junior Secondary and specialist teachers, and encourage their involvement.

## **Question on Notice**

**No. G4**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

### **QUESTION:**

I refer to 3-59 where there is a reference to highlights in 2011-12 including funding for implementation for the Flying Start Initiative. Can the Minister explain the transition arrangements to be implemented in relation to Year 7 joining high school from 2015, including transition arrangements for teachers and other state school staff?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

Detailed planning is being undertaken, focusing on the impacts Year 7 joining high school may have at an individual school level.

We are managing this important change to our education system with exceptional care. This is why we will pilot Year 7 in up to 20 state high schools before 2015. To ensure a smooth transition, the Queensland Government has planned a comprehensive package of measures, backed by significant financial resources for state, Catholic and independent schools.

Moving Year 7 to high school is part of wider improvements to our education system. From 2013, Years 8 and 9 will become Junior Secondary in all state schools, with Year 7 becoming part of Junior Secondary in 2015. The implementation of Junior Secondary from 2013 will make the transition from primary to secondary school easier, safer and more welcoming for Year 7 students.

There will also be a strong emphasis on pastoral care for our students, and parents will be encouraged to become even more involved in their children's schooling in the high school years.

State school teachers will be supported through a comprehensive professional development program and scholarships for further qualifications.

The professional development package will help equip all teachers and school leaders involved in junior secondary. This will ensure they have the necessary skills and experience to work with young adolescents in the secondary environment as well as to introduce the new Australian Curriculum.

A dedicated workforce plan for state schools is also being developed to assist teachers and other staff make the transition. This plan includes transition arrangements for affected employees for up to three years.

The Department of Education and Training is committed to extensive consultation and timely communication of decisions, so that school communities and staff are fully aware of changes that may occur.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. G5**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

QUESTION:

At 3-58 of the Service Delivery Statement I note the Department of Education and Training will spend \$578.6 million on infrastructure. Can the Minister please advise what the education capital component of this figure is?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Once again the Department of Education and Training will be making a significant investment in the future of the state. This investment includes projected expenditure of \$578.6 million through its Capital Works Program.

The education capital component of the \$578.6 million is \$384.3 million.

This significant investment in school education infrastructure during 2011–12 includes allocations for:

- Schools Growth — which includes the construction of a new school at Mango Hill and the relocation of Mer Campus of Taigai State College, new stages of four schools, Land Acquisition and Additional Classroom and Toilet Requirements in growth areas and the continuation of the South East Queensland Schools Public Private Partnership with delivery of seven new schools in high growth areas.
- Schools Renewal — which includes replacement and enhancement of facilities at existing schools including planning towards the mitigation against natural disasters. The investment will also cover Electrical Upgrades, Minor Works Grants, Prioritised Projects, Rectification and Reinstatement and Replacement of Air Conditioning at schools throughout the State.
- Schools Specific Purpose — which includes the construction of new and upgrading of existing training facilities under the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program, works under the National Solar Schools Program, the completion of the Tomorrows Schools Program, and Planning for the Year Seven Program.
- Employee Housing — the acquisition of new employee housing and refurbish and maintain existing housing.
- Building the Education Revolution Program (BER) — the continuation of the Science and Language Centres and Primary Schools for the 21st Century components of the BER Program.

This investment will improve the quality of learning environments across the state and provide much needed new classrooms in high growth areas.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. G6**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to 3-59 of the Service Delivery Statement and the reference to the funding in the 2011-12 budget for additional teacher aides. Can the Minister please advise how many extra teachers aides will be employed, and how that will assist teachers and students?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

Teacher aides support teaching and learning in Queensland schools. They work closely with teachers, developing and obtaining resources, setting up and operating equipment, undertaking administrative duties, supervising students and participating in teaching activities under the direction of a teacher.

On a day-to-day basis, teacher aides enrich the learning experiences of students by assisting and supporting the work of teachers and are called upon to be flexible and adapt to meet the needs of the school and its students.

Page 3-59 of the Service Delivery Statement makes reference to an additional 5,000 teacher aide hours per week to complete the Government's \$43 million three-year commitment to allocate an additional 15,000 hours of teacher aide time each week to support primary students from Prep to Year 7.

These additional 5,000 teacher aide hours per week can be used by schools to support Prep teachers at the start of the year, and to help students in the lead-up to the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. They may also be assigned to classes where students have learning difficulties or need other types of learning support.

Page 3-59 also makes reference to a growth of 300 teachers and teacher aides for the 2011–12 financial year, as a result of growth in enrolments.

These teacher aides will contribute to the provision of a quality educational service by assisting and supporting teachers, students and parents with learning activities and administrative duties in a supportive school environment.

The Labor Government has employed more than 10,000 extra teachers and teacher aides since 1998.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. G 7**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer the Minister to 3-59 of the Service Delivery Statement highlighting the role of parents and volunteers. Can the Minister please advise how volunteer ready readers will help young students in classrooms across the state?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Bligh Government's long-term vision for Queensland, outlined in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, creates bold targets that will drive a strong, green, smart, healthy and fair Queensland.

The Government is working hard to deliver on its 'fair' commitment to increase by 50 per cent the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their communities as volunteers.

Volunteering is an essential contributor to the strength and resilience of our state. People who volunteer make an enormous contribution to the cultural, social and economic life of our communities.

As part of its commitment to support volunteering in the community, the Government launched the Queensland Ready Reader program. The program aims to facilitate the recruitment and training of up to 3,000 volunteers to go into schools to help young readers.

Research shows that well-trained and supported volunteers can make significant contributions to children's learning. The Queensland Ready Readers initiative is building on the existing volunteer programs that operate across our schools.

Since the program began in May 2010, more than 1,600 volunteers have attended training sessions state-wide. Over 1,000 of these volunteers are currently placed in more than 400 state and non-state schools.

Parents and carers also have a key role in developing early literacy to help children get ready for school.

Since the beginning of the 2011 school year, the Government has also been delivering workshops for parents and carers of children in Prep to Year 3. These Parent Ready Reader sessions are designed to give parents an understanding of the reading process and acknowledge that parents are a child's first teacher.

Research shows that the simple act of reading regularly to children has a positive impact on their literacy and learning and helps prepare them for school.

During the two-hour workshops, parents are provided with tips on how to build a child's confidence with reading, and also how to make reading a fun, family activity. This practical workshop gives parents strategies they can use in everyday activities to promote positive attitudes towards reading and literacy.



Introducing children to books at an early age can help give them the pre-literacy skills they need to get off to a flying start in their education. It stimulates their imagination and mental development, and puts them on the path to lifelong learning.

Parent workshops are held regularly in all regions for interested families and nearly 2,500 parents have accessed the workshops to date.

The two Ready Reader programs have been well received and have strengthened community connections to deliver benefits to the children of Queensland.

## **Question on Notice**

**No. G8**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to page 3-173 of the Service Delivery Statements. Could the Minister please provide an outline of the total budget provided by the Queensland Government to the Fair and Safe Work service area and how it will contribute to worker safety?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the committee for the question.

The total budget provided by the Queensland Government for the Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland is \$123.9 million. The Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland is committed to reducing the number of workplace incidents and to leading policy development and the delivery of services that contribute to worker safety.

Approximately 82 percent of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland's workforce is focussed solely on the delivery of targeted compliance and enforcement interventions, provision of advisory services, investigation of serious workplace incidents and prosecutions.

\$71.7 million has been allocated in 2011-12 for compliance and advisory campaigns. Campaigns will be run across a range of high risk industries such as construction, manufacturing, transport and rural industries. The campaigns will focus on particular risks which data indicates as contributing significantly to serious injuries in the workplace, for example, working around moving plant and falls from height.

The second stage of the Homecomings campaign, consisting of television, radio, print and online media is scheduled to run in October 2011 at a cost of \$1 million. The campaign will reinforce the key message that 'the most important reason for workplace safety is not at work at all'.

An advisory program has been established to assist businesses within Queensland's workers compensation scheme that have premiums capped at two times the average rate for their industry. The program is a joint initiative between Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and WorkCover Queensland focusing on working with these businesses to improve their injury prevention and rehabilitation and return to work systems.

A further \$20.2 million is allocated for the provision of industrial relations advice and advocacy on wages and conditions through education, compliance and enforcement programs. In addition, in the public sector, the Office assists with the negotiations of enterprise agreements that cover public sector employees. The Office provides advice to Government on wages and conditions, policy and processes in the public sector.

In the area of electrical safety, \$15.9 million is allocated to administer the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* and implement the Electrical Safety Board's *Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2009-14*. The Electrical Safety Office will undertake a range of activities which will contribute to the safety of Queensland workers including delivery of education and awareness programs and compliance and enforcement activities through a state-wide inspectorate, to be increased by six inspectors in 2011-12. Strategies will include the continued development of legislation and standards, the implementation of the updated Electrical Equipment Safety System, launch of the proposed '*Don't Do Your Own Electrical Work*' advertising campaign and consideration of the expansion of safety switch installation in residential accommodation.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. G9

Asked on 29 June 2011

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

QUESTION:

I refer to page 3-170 of the Service Delivery Statements. Could the Minister please outline details of programs that are being implemented by the Queensland Government to help employers make workplaces safer and help injured workers return to work?

ANSWER:

I thank the committee for the question.

In 2011-12 Workplace Health and Safety Queensland will complete the Medium Sized Business Initiative which seeks to help over 6500 businesses better understand and manage occupational health and safety risks by providing information and advice before an inspection. The initiative commenced in April 2010. In 2010/11, 124 information sessions were attended by representatives from over 3000 medium sized businesses. A further 368 businesses, who had poorer workers' compensation records, received a one-on-one consultation. Program evaluation shows over 85 percent of employers changed their safety practices and 60 percent reported a positive change in their attitude towards safety management.

Direct assistance will also continue to be provided to Queensland's small businesses. In 2010-11 the Small Business Program conducted over 200 one-on-one workplace consultations, and delivered 26 workshops, 23 presentations and eight group coaching sessions to over 1200 attendees.

In 2011-12 Workplace Health and Safety Queensland will conduct campaigns for the construction, health and community services, manufacturing, rural and transport industry sectors, focusing on issues which have been identified as areas of particular concern. These include manual tasks, working around moving plant, operation of quad bikes and working at height.

Last year amendments to the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* were made to allow for premium rates to be increased for employers who repeatedly exceed their industry rate. Coinciding with these amendments the Queensland Government announced the allocation of \$2 million per year over four years for an engagement and advisory program to assist these "capped" employers.

Under the banner of the Injury Prevention and Management program, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and WorkCover Queensland have been working with capped employers to improve their injury prevention, rehabilitation and return to work outcomes. To date, over 160 priority employers are engaged in the process of developing an ongoing business improvement strategy, which is facilitated by twelve state-wide advisors. By December 2011, the program seeks to engage another 60 priority employers and provide a range of advisory services to another 800 capped employers.

According to the latest Comparative Performance Monitoring Report (CPM), a national report prepared by Safe Work Australia, Queensland's improvement in the rate of serious injury was 10.7 percent between the base period (2000-01 to 2002-03) and 2008-09.

Further, internal research, based on the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland internal monitoring measure data suggests that in the next CPM (13th edition) report that Queensland will record a further improvement.

Injury prevention is the primary goal. When people are injured, the Queensland Government is committed to returning them to meaningful and appropriate work as soon as possible.

Queensland had a return to work rate of 86 percent in 2009-10 against the Australian national average of 85 percent. The durable return to work rate, meaning those currently working in paid employment seven to eight months after submitting a claim, was 78% against the Australian national average of 75 Percent.

Despite having one of the highest rates of return to work in Australia, there can always be improvements when assisting injured workers after a work related injury. In 2008, Q-COMP, Queensland's Workers' Compensation Regulatory Authority, developed an initiative called *Return to work assist*. This initiative assists those injured workers who have no job to return to after their workers' compensation claim has been finalised. In July 2010, the Government passed legislation through Parliament making it mandatory for insurers to refer workers who do not have a job at the end of their compensation claim to *Return to work assist*.

Return to work assist has an 86 percent return to work rate. This year alone the initiative has assisted 692 injured workers back to work. The initiative provides a range of services and support for those injured workers in need, including career advice, résumé writing, job preparation and job seeking skills, along with linking clients to accredited training providers so that they can be skilled up prior to re-entering the workforce.

The Electrical Safety Office maintains a strong legislation development program which, in 2011-12 saw the passage of significant changes to the *Electrical Safety Act and Regulation 2002*. These included regulation of the installation of ceiling insulation, and significant amendments to both primary and subordinate legislation to align with the nationally consistent framework for work-related workplace safety risks and to implement the updated national Electrical Equipment Safety System.

The Electrical Safety Office promoted electrically safe workplaces by conducting seminars for 2,402 electrical workers, contractors and supervisors; and for 928 electrical apprentices, in a program specifically designed to reach electrical workers at the earliest stages of their training.

In 2010-11, the Electrical Safety Office undertook a State-wide compliance program that includes a range of monitoring and enforcement activities. 1,777 audits and investigations were conducted with 1,119 notices being issued.

## **Question on Notice**

**No. G10**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

### **QUESTION:**

I refer to page 3-170 of the Service Delivery Statements. Could the Minister please provide further information about the planned communication campaigns the Queensland Government will implement in 2011-12 to keep workers and homeowners safe?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the committee for the question.

In 2011-12, the Queensland Government has a number of communications campaigns planned to keep workers and homeowners safe.

The proposed "Don't do your own electrical work" advertising campaign will send a strong safety message to every Queenslanders to only use licensed electrical contractors – DIY electrical work is not worth risking a serious injury.

The Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland will continue its program of successful electrical safety seminars to industry; public awareness activities; and electrical safety awareness presentations to electrical apprentices—providing them with the best safety advice from the very beginning.

The successful 2010 Safe Work Week will be expanded this year to promote and celebrate safety in workplaces throughout the entire month of October.

Mal Meninga will again promote the importance of workplace health and safety at major Safe Work Week events, and there will be more regional launches than before, an industry symposium and a major public event in Brisbane for the community.

Queensland was the first jurisdiction to pass new legislation based on the national model Work Health and Safety Act, which comes into effect on 1 January 2012.

Employers and workers will be prepared for the implementation of the new laws through industry specific information sessions, plus up-to-the-minute news and information alerts via email broadcasts and the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland website.

The Queensland Government has committed over \$1 million in 2011/12 for the second stage of the successful Homecomings media campaign that reminds everyone in the Queensland community that, at the end of every shift, workers should be able to go home to their families and loved ones in the same condition that they went to work.

## **Question on Notice**

**No. NG1**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

### **QUESTION:**

I refer to p 3-66 of the Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statement and ask the Minister to provide the amount of total funding in each of the years of forward estimates for pre-prep programs in C & K community centres, private church and school pre-prep programs provided in long day care and the number of places in total that this is expected to fund in each of the years of the forward estimates and if available the breakdown for the number in long day care approved programs versus other pre-prep such as community kindergartens?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the Question.

The Bligh Government is committed to providing access to a kindergarten program for all children in the year before prep by 2014.

The Queensland Government provides funding to approved kindergarten providers through the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS). The funding supports kindergarten services, services provided by church and non-state schools, and long day care services that are approved to offer a kindergarten program.

In 2010–11, \$55.5 million was allocated through the QKFS to support the delivery of kindergarten programs. This was comprised of \$44.2 million for kindergarten services and \$11.3 million for long day care services. The Government is continuing its commitment with the allocation of \$91.8 million in 2011–12 comprising of \$55.1 million for kindergarten services and \$36.7 million for long day care services.

The allocation of funding under the QKFS in the forward estimates is based on predictions of the gradual roll-out of kindergarten programs in long day care services, the planned establishment of extra kindergarten services and predicted growth in the population of the kindergarten age cohort. The total estimated funding allocated for 2012–13 is \$111.8 million comprising of \$65.4 million for kindergarten services and \$46.4 million for long day care services. The total estimated funding allocated for 2013–14 is \$125.5 million comprising of \$76.4 million for kindergarten services and \$49.1 million for long day care services.

In relation to your second question, the Queensland Government is committed to achieving universal access by 2014. Under the National Partnership agreement with the Australian Government, the Queensland Government has established annual targets for increased kindergarten participation. In 2011 the target is 65 per cent of the cohort enrolled in a kindergarten program, increasing to 86 per cent in 2012 and 95 per cent in 2013. The Government has exceeded the target for 2010 (32 per cent) with 40 per cent of children enrolled in a kindergarten program (up from 29 per cent in 2008).

With reference to the question regarding the number of places provided in long day care and kindergartens through the Universal Access initiative and the funding provided in the budget, the amount spent on kindergarten services through the QKFS in 2010–11 was \$44.237 million providing around 13,551 kindergarten places. The 2011–12 cost is estimated at approximately \$55.146 million. The increase reflects that 108 extra kindergarten services are planned to open in 2012 providing up to an extra 4,752 places.

As of June 2011, and as a result of the three funding rounds since 2010, more than 630 long day care services are now approved to deliver a kindergarten program creating approximately 17,650 places up from around 9,494 in 2010.



**Question on Notice**  
**No. NG2**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to p 3-59 of the Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statement and ask the Minister to state the number of prep classes in Queensland, the number of classes that exceed 25 students, the number of classes that have a full time teacher aide, total hours of teacher aide time in prep classes. Of the additional 5,000 teacher aide hours contained in the 2011-12 budget how many will be spent in prep classes?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Bligh Government is committed to giving our children a flying start to life. We are continuing our reform agenda, employing more teachers, teacher aides and support staff to help students at primary and secondary schools across the state.

The Labor Government has employed more than 10,000 extra teachers and teacher aides since our election in 1998 to cater for increasing enrolments.

The Government has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the achievement of class size targets.

Information regarding Prep class sizes is publicly available on the Department of Education and Training's website.

Decisions regarding the specific size of a class, taking into consideration various factors, are made by the school.

As individual schools have differing needs in regard to the use of teacher aide hours, decisions regarding allocations are made at the local level.

Teacher aide allocations are based on a school's enrolment.

In excess of 36,200 teacher aide hours per week were allocated to Prep in 2011 — an increase of approximately 2,200 teacher aide hours a week over the 2010 allocation.

Primary schools can also choose to use part of their allocation from the 5,000 teacher aide hours per week that have been committed this year, as part of the government's \$43 million three-year commitment to allocate 15,000 extra hours of teacher aide time each week, to support primary students from Prep to Year 7.

**Question on Notice**

**No. NG3**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

1. I refer to p 25 of the Queensland State Budget – Budget Measures and ask the Minister with regard to the move of Year 7 and the \$622 million allocated to capital and transitional costs,
  - a) How much is allocated in each of the years of forward estimates divided into capital and non capital?
  - b) With the non capital expenditure, please detail what is expected to be spent on professional development, retraining, additional school costs in high school and pastoral support?
  - c) Please confirm as previously advised that \$622 million is new money not previously contained in state or federal budgets or grant.

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

In regard to the forward estimates for capital and non capital and initiatives included in *A Flying Start* I refer the member to the Queensland State Budget – Budget Measures – Budget Paper No. 4 which sets out these details.

As previously stated, the \$622 million is additional funding.

**Question on Notice**

**No. NG 4**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to p 25 of the Queensland State Budget – Budget Measures and ask the Minister with regard to the move of Year 7 into high school in 2015 what recurrent annual cost has been added to previously established budgets per year to cover the additional cost of a student receiving a high school education as opposed to the costs of receiving a primary school education listing the amount separately for 2015-16.

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

I refer the Member to my Ministerial Statement in the Parliament on 14 June 2011 in which I addressed this issue.

## **Question on Notice**

**No. NG 5**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

### **QUESTION:**

I refer to p 3-69 of the Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statement and ask the Minister with regard to the 59,188 FTE staff employed at EQ schools, please list by category of employment the numbers for (teaching staff, administration (janitorial and non teaching staff), teacher aides, primary classroom teachers (Year 7 teachers separately) and secondary classroom teachers) listing corresponding figures to the previous year.

### **ANSWER:**

I thank for Committee for the Question.

The Bligh Government is committed to providing our children with a flying start to life, by delivering a quality education system.

The Labor Government has employed more than 10,000 extra teachers and teacher aides since we were elected in 1998. We have also delivered the support staff that teachers and teacher aides need to deliver better outcomes for Queensland students, from Prep to Year 12.

At June 2011, there were an estimated 38,044 teacher Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) (rising to an estimated 38,295 in 2011–12); 1,201 relief teachers (estimated 1,205 in 2011–12); 8,458 administration/other non-teaching staff (estimated 8,498 in 2011–12); 7,543 teacher aides (estimated to rise to 7,721 in 2011–12); and 3,466 cleaners (estimated 3,469 in 2011–12).

At June 2011, there were an estimated 20,875 primary, 13,566 secondary and 3,603 teachers for students with disabilities. The forecast for 2011–12 in these categories is 21,027, 13,600 and 3,668 respectively.

In 2011 the number of classroom teacher FTEs allocated on the basis of Year 7 enrolments is 1,565. The actual number of teachers required for Year 7 in 2012 will not be known until the finalisation of enrolments at the start of the 2012 school year.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. NG6**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to p 3-74 of the Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statement and ask the Minister to detail the expected budget for special needs education for each of the years of the forward estimates

- a) How much of this is expected to be spent on non-government schools;
- b) How much of this budget estimate is to be spent directly on classroom teaching such as face to face teaching time and teacher resources and;
- c) How much will be spent on administration, monitoring, classification of students and other non classroom costs?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question. For clarification, p 3-74 refers to the budget for students with disability, as the term 'special needs' incorporates other student cohorts.

The Bligh Government is committed to providing a quality education for students with disability. This commitment is highlighted by the fact the Department of Education and Training's 2011–12 operating budget for services associated with students with disability in the state schooling sector is \$723 million.

81.5 per cent of all Queensland children who experience a disability are enrolled in Queensland Government schools.

The Government provides a range of programs for students with disability from prior to Prep to senior secondary, delivered by highly-qualified teachers.

School and regional staff consult with parents to build a better understanding of a child's needs and make informed decisions about priority access to programs and services.

Decisions on how a school allocates its funding to best support its students are made at a local level.

The level of support to a student takes into account the frequency of education adjustments required to be made to ensure that the student accesses education on the same basis as their peers.

In addition to the \$723 million this financial year for state schools, \$34.3 million has been allocated in the budget for targeted funding for students with disability enrolled in non-state schools. This funding is administered by the peak bodies of the non-state school sector, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland.

Non-state schools with students with disability also receive additional non-targeted funding via the needs-based component of the State Government's recurrent grants program.

The allocation for students with disability is assessed annually. Allocations are then made to individual schools, based on enrolments and a range of other factors.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. NG 7**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to page 3-94 of the Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statement and ask the Minister what has been the total cost to QLD to date of preparing National Curriculum and what has that money been spent on;

- a) What allocation has been budgeted for each of the years of the forward estimates for implementation of the National Curriculum?
- b) How much has QLD spent on monitoring and evaluation of the National Curriculum to date?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Australian Curriculum is not separately budgeted for in the Department of Education and Training forward estimates. Teaching the Australian Curriculum from 2012 will become core business for the Department of Education and Training.

In the lead up to 2012 the Queensland Government has recognised that teachers will need assistance in preparing for the new Australian Curriculum. In 2010–11 the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) spent approximately \$1.56 million on activities associated with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. The QSA has developed over 150 on-line resources and delivered professional development workshops to teachers and curriculum leaders across the State.

Further, as the curriculum has not yet been implemented, Queensland has not spent any money on monitoring or evaluating the Australian Curriculum.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. NG8**  
**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) -

**QUESTION:**

I refer to p 3-66 of the Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statement and ask the Minister with regard to specific Indigenous education programs;

- a) What has been the total cost of developing and implementing programs
- b) How much of that cost has been incurred delivering programs opposed to developing, planning and reviewing?
- c) Please list all programs provided specifically for Indigenous education.

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

My understanding is that you are referring to vocational education and training, higher education and early childhood and care.

\$47.5 million was allocated over four years (2006-07 to 2009-10) to enhance access for children aged three and a half to four and a half years across 35 Indigenous communities to quality early childhood education. In 2011-12, \$1,997,189 will be allocated to childcare and family support services in these communities.

The Bligh Government is committed to Closing the Gap on Indigenous education outcomes. In 2010, 40,375 Indigenous students were enrolled in Queensland state schools.

The Closing the Gap agenda is linked to a wider reform of Commonwealth-State financial relations. Closing the Gap targets have been built into funding agreements between the Australian, state and territory governments and non-government education providers as part of national arrangements, including the:

- o National Education Agreement;
- o Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities National Partnership;
- o Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership;
- o Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership;
- o Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership; and
- o National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.

In addition to these, the education needs of Indigenous students received support through the following:

- o Allocation of Closing the Gap Education Grants to regions and schools to implement initiatives to close the gap in Indigenous students outcomes.
- o Pre-prep early learning programs are being provided across 35 Indigenous communities.

- Continuing to support students from the Torres Strait, Cape York and Palm Island and their families, while they study away from home at rural and urban secondary schools.
- Literacy and numeracy projects over three years under the Australian Government's Closing the Gap (expansion of intensive literacy and numeracy) initiative to improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in identified state schools.
- Continuing to support the pilot of the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy which aims to improve learning outcomes for Indigenous students and support the identity of Indigenous children in the Cape York region.
- Continuing to implement the Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools initiative to strengthen partnerships between schools and local Indigenous communities, support inclusive education and improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- Providing case management support to assist all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 students, in all sectors, to successfully transition from schooling to further education, training and/or employment
- Indigenous Schooling Support Units who work with schools, families and communities to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

For information on Indigenous education programs within the Training portfolio please refer to the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining.



## Question on Notice

No. NG 9

Asked on 29 June 2011

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick)-

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland State Budget 2011-12 – Service Delivery Statements p3-172 in relation to improving workplace health and safety laws;

- a) How many cases against employers are before the court?
- b) What is the estimated cost of these cases and cost of recovery?
- c) How many cases have been presented to the court of these how many have been settled?

### ANSWER:

I thank the committee for the question.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has an enviable record regarding investigation and compliance activities.

In 2009-10, WHSQ completed 117 prosecutions. Of these 91 were successful, resulting in more than \$3.9 million in fines.

This included the successful prosecution of a Rockhampton company for breaches of the Electrical Safety Act and Workplace Health and Safety Act, resulting in record fines of \$135,000 in total being imposed.

From 1 January 2012, the new national *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* will commence in Queensland.

The Act, which puts an end to disparate and inconsistent laws across Australia, will assist in making Queensland and Australian workplaces, safer and provide certainty and consistency for employers and workers. The new Act will see substantial increases in the penalties for breaches of the Act.

The increased maximum penalties extend the ability of the courts to impose more meaningful penalties where appropriate and to emphasise to the community the seriousness of offences under the Act.

There are currently 89 workplace health and safety matters at various stages before the Industrial Magistrates Court (the Court).

Providing the estimated cost of these cases and the cost of recovery is difficult prior to a case being completed, as costs for individual cases vary significantly. Some cases are clear and the evidence that is required to be gathered is relatively minimal. Some cases require significant expense in terms of obtaining expert evidence and

other external, usually expert or professional evidence. In 2010-11 the average costs awarded by the courts per completed case was \$2,385 with total costs of \$195,602.

In 2010-11, 102 complaints and summons were issued and 93 cases were settled as at 31 May 2011 relating to both workplace health and safety and electrical safety matters. A further four cases entered into enforceable undertakings.

## **Question on Notice**

**No. NG10**

**Asked on 29 June 2011**

**Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick)-

### **QUESTION:**

I refer to the Queensland State Budget 2011-12 - Service Delivery Statement p 3-172. Please advise a breakdown of:

- a) the expenditure of the 2,100 field visits during the Summer Natural disasters
- b) number of personnel involved
- c) the breaches reported through the above field visits

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

There were 103 Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors involved in the disaster recovery efforts. They were backed up by five Electrical Safety Office regional managers and 38 ESO inspectors who were involved and responded as required in the disaster areas.

In addition to normal salary costs the cost for Workplace Health and Safety Queensland staff field visits during the natural disaster recovery efforts was \$80,000, which included overtime for staff conducting field visits, travel and accommodation costs and staffing and promoting the disaster hotline and printing of information products for those working on the recovery effort, including information on working safely with asbestos.

The ESO expenditure on field visits during the Summer Natural disasters was not separately budgeted for nor recorded. The response was undertaken as part of the Inspectorate's regular advisory and compliance activities.

In the immediate aftermath of both the floods and the cyclone, Workplace Health and Safety inspectors worked to provide advice and guidance and during this time no breaches were recorded.

During the rebuilding efforts inspectors issued 10 breach notices.