

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 570
Asked on 20 May 2004

MS MALE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (Mr Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Will he advise on the operation of the recreational fishing workshops being run by his department – “Take A Kid Fishing” – and report on the feedback his department has received to date?

ANSWER:

The Kids Fishing Clinics were initiated in November last year, with nine clinics held simultaneously around Queensland. The response to the clinics was so overwhelming that I asked the Department to conduct more clinics over the last two school holiday periods – Christmas and Easter. Almost 600 children have now taken part in the clinics.

Each child gets to take home their own rod and reel. They also receive a tackle kit, a hat and a package of information about fisheries and the environment.

Not only do the kids get some handy tips on how to fish, they also receive an educational presentation from one of our Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers on fishing rules and regulations and how to properly release a fish. This educational component is an essential part of the overall experience and aims to instil in kids a long lasting ethical attitude to fishing.

I was pleased to announce recently that the Department will be conducting around 20 more clinics around the State in the next 12 months. The next of these will be held over the June/July holidays in five locations – the Gold Coast, Maroochydore, Burrum Heads, Gladstone and Ayr.

The Clinics have been overwhelmingly popular with both parents and children. I would like to provide just one example of the feedback we have received from many parents.

“Our twins (Alexandra and Tobias) enjoyed putting their first rod together from start to finish and baiting it themselves (boy Dad is pleased about that one). They also enjoyed the information speeches and to our amazement even took most of it in, as on the ride home we asked them what they learnt and I know that the next time Dad goes out fishing he better watch out as his two little fishing buddies are now as smart, if not smarter, than he is and will surely be the voice of his conscience.”

The Department is committed to ensuring that the next generation of anglers are aware of their responsibility to the environment and can look after our fisheries resources to make sure their own children can enjoy the same quality fishing experience in years to come.