

**Question on Notice  
No. 778  
Asked on 18 June 2004**

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Education and the Arts (Ms Bligh) -

QUESTION:

- (1) For each of the last two financial years and for the year to date, will she detail the total financial cost of all (a) arson attacks, (b) vandalism and (c) theft in State schools broken down by region?
- (2) For (1), will she provide a breakdown of the cost of building damage/loss and contents damage/loss?

ANSWER:

- (1) The total cost relating to arson attacks, vandalism and theft of Education Queensland property by region is provided in Attachment A – Building and Contents Damage/Loss Cost Breakdown, within the Total Cost Columns.
- (2) The breakdown between building and contents damage/loss by Education Queensland district is detailed in Attachment A – Building and Contents Damage/Loss Cost Breakdown.

Districts with high levels of cost in 2003-04 are due to significant arson attacks, which occurred at Chinchilla SS (Chinchilla district), Mitchelton SHS (Geebung), Kingston SS, Logan Beaudesert), Woolloowin SS (Stafford) and Weir SS (Townsville).

Existing strategies in place by the School Security Program to address vandalism, theft and arson attacks on schools include security patrols, alarm systems, the School Security Advisor program, the School Watch Program and security upgrades.

The Security upgrade program will provide \$6m over 3 years and deliver security upgrades to 55 schools in 2004/05. Security upgrades being addressed include alarm systems, video surveillance, physical building upgrades and fencing.

Walk patrols are provided to 153 schools assessed at high risk of theft, vandalism and arson, an increase of 68 schools from 2002-03.

Recent marketing of the School Watch Program has resulted in a 22% increase of School Watch calls.

The Queensland Government Insurance Fund provides building and contents damage insurance and Education Queensland expenditure is reimbursed through this fund for amounts over \$10,000 related to a single incident.

**Attachment A – Building and Contents Damage/Loss Cost Breakdown**

	2001/2002			2002/2003			2003/2004 YTD		
	Building Cost (1)	Contents Cost (1)	Total Cost (2)	Building Cost (1)	Contents Cost (1)	Total Cost (2)	Building Cost (1)	Contents Cost (1)	Total Cost (2)
<i>District Name</i>									
Bayside	811766	133334	945100	84588	93672	178260	107406	50576	157982
Bundaberg	19253	12590	31843	36952	51936	88888	7225	9068	16293
Cairns and Cape	44888	10128	55016	67442	63557	130999	71937	28766	100703
Central Office	1413	1377	2790	325	0	325	0	0	0
Chinchilla	1912	0	1912	565	4324	4889	2078699	145716	2224415
Coopers Plains	1687649	394667	2082316	503175	128924	632099	82242	71992	154234
Corinda	112571	177535	290106	80886	186653	267539	36511	134444	170955
Darling Downs	18447	11991	30438	2114	3446	5560	13640	3886	17526
Emerald	9184	7345	16529	16352	1489	17841	1476	7795	9271
Fraser-Cooloola	27491	36793	64284	35839	56491	92330	30350	17621	47971
Geebung	207758	81137	288895	136522	59920	196442	1534271	258091	1792362
Gladstone	54302	20714	75016	18304	9927	28231	12972	19989	32961
Gold Coast North	2565093	1130214	3695307	127080	74314	201394	78689	63566	142255
Gold Coast South	141027	59271	200298	48878	28740	77618	73688	39600	113288
Ipswich	38559	49862	88421	56255	42892	99147	62442	49332	111774
Isis Burnett	10218	233	10451	13862	13873	27735	5856	4487	10343
Logan Beaudesert	163768	147629	311397	599410	182963	782373	469901	71224	541125
Longreach	1853	0	1853	257	723	980	693	554	1247
Mackay Hinterland and North	41469	21629	63098	45070	21620	66690	33254	5962	39216
Mooloolaba	89360	46275	135635	60331	47993	108324	41125	38128	79253
Mount Gravatt	70392	112232	182624	71688	104068	175756	57250	18312	75562
Mount Isa	170331	30906	201237	31243	1464	32707	35256	794	36050
Murrumba	234035	65965	300000	228221	33447	261668	125975	61166	187141
Nambour	52127	36053	88180	42199	31519	73718	40018	8362	48380
Rockhampton	48485	61372	109857	31236	5827	37063	992	13135	14127
Roma	5918	24344	30262	5863	2647	8510	5590	2643	8233
South Burnett	9535	3935	13470	11072	2096	13168	7753	533	8286

	2001/2002			2002/2003			2003/2004 YTD		
Stafford	64805	47637	112442	63303	50184	113487	3438382	564862	4003244
Tablelands-Johnstone	10538	5780	16318	13415	21717	35132	11459	10970	22429
Toowoomba	20854	9602	30456	21777	19847	41624	9567	10195	19762
Torres Strait	15375	4389	19764	15652	1869	17521	14051	125	14176
Townsville	186145	72624	258769	244670	52472	297142	540807	69407	610214
Warwick	6485	12798	19283	4131	1860	5991	6925	6880	13805
West Moreton	44615	22160	66775	54634	24691	79325	19485	24926	44411
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6987621</b>	<b>2852521</b>	<b>9840142</b>	<b>2773311</b>	<b>1427165</b>	<b>4200476</b>	<b>9055887</b>	<b>1813107</b>	<b>10868994</b>

*Notes*

(1) Figures relate to Question 2

(2) Figures relate to Question 1

Figures for the following categories are current as at the dates specified.

- Building cost: 15 and/or 22 June 04
- Contents cost: 21 June 04

Building and contents cost includes replacement and damage repair.

Data that determines the final identified cause of an incident is held by the Queensland Police Service and is not provided to the Department of Education and the Arts. Therefore, existing departmental data records the suspected cause only. Consequently, the ratio of arson to non-arson incidents in Queensland State schools may be inflated due to subsequent investigations eliminating arson as the cause.

The cost of recent fires at Peak Crossing SS and Parkhurst SS is not known at this stage.