

Question on Notice
No. 290
Asked on 10 March 2005

MR FENLON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to Education Queensland International (EQI) –

- (1) Will she provide information on the success of the Group Study Tours initiative?
- (2) Are there any schools which participate in this initiative in the Greenslopes electorate?
- (3) Are there any other programs facilitated by EQI at schools in the Greenslopes Electorate?
- (4) What are the criteria for a school to develop a sister school or exchange relationship with a school overseas or vice versa?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Study Tour program is an initiative of Education Queensland and has been facilitated through its international division for the past 14 years. Over 8100 students and teachers from nine different countries participated in study tour programs to Queensland Government schools in 2004. This represented a 24% growth in participant numbers in the three-year period from 2002-03 to 2004-05. Total revenue generated by study tour programs increased at the rate of 21% over this three-year period.

There are now over 360 primary and secondary state schools across Queensland involved in this initiative.

- (2) Schools that wish to participate in this initiative must undergo an accreditation and training process delivered by Education Queensland International (EQI). There are three state primary and three state high schools accredited to host study tours in the Greenslopes Electorate. These are Holland Park State School, Marshall Road State School, Wellers Hill State School, Holland Park State High School, Cavendish Road State High School and Coorparoo Secondary College.
- (3) From time to time EQI facilitates professional visits for groups of international teachers and government officials to schools, including those in the Greenslopes Electorate. In addition, some schools in the Greenslopes Electorate have fee-paying international students enrolled, as well as student visa holder dependants and temporary visa holders. As at 8 April 2005, one fee-paying international student, 23 dependants, one visitor visa holder and two temporary visa holders attend schools in the Greenslopes Electorate.
- (4) A sister school relationship is formed on the basis of a reciprocal, mutually beneficial and non-commercial arrangement between two schools. This formalised relationship aims to promote cultural understanding and language skills through correspondence, student exchange and other activities. Study Tour programs often provide the basis for developing sister school or exchange relationships, by introducing Queensland schools to visiting international schools. A guideline to developing and nurturing sister school relationships has been developed by the Department and is available to all schools and Members of Parliament. Cavendish Road State High School, Holland Park State School and Holland Park State High School in the Greenslopes Electorate all have formal sister school agreements with schools in Japan.