

**Question on Notice
No. 292
Asked on 10 March 2005**

MRS LAVARCH asked the Minister for State Development and Innovation (MR McGRADY) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Science on Saturday initiative -

How is the program being received in Pine Rivers?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's Smart State vision includes strengthening Queensland's economy through innovation in science and technology while ensuring the next generation is prepared for the jobs of the future. To encourage today's students to become tomorrow's scientists, in 2004 the Queensland Government introduced a program called "Science on Saturday" for children aged 7 to 14 years. This program is delivered by CSIRO through the Department of State Development and Innovation over 6 weeks in 6 locations each school term. The topics covered include forensics, electronics, rocks and minerals, flight, genetics and sun protection.

Science on Saturday:

In Strathpine the program has been very well received. Out of a maximum number of 200 student places available, a total of 190 students have participated in the program. Feedback from the students has been very positive and interest in scientific careers has increased.

The success of the program in Strathpine is consistent with the results achieved statewide in which a total of 5,549 places were filled. The program has been conducted in 24 locations from Cairns in the far north to Mt Isa in the west and the Gold Coast in the south. In 2005 the program will be run in locations as far afield as Weipa in the north, Camooweal in the west and Stanthorpe in the south.

Feedback received from the participating students rated the program 8 out of 10 with regard to "educational value" and 9 out of 10 with regard to the "fun" aspect. Parents of the participating students rated the program 9 out of 10. Feedback from parents of participating students reflected that the "Science on Saturday" program had inspired a greater interest in science in their children. All of the respondents said they would participate again the following year.

During 2005 I am expecting another 5,000 students to take part from centres such as Miles, Cloncurry, Normanton, Tully and Millmerran.