

**Question on Notice
No. 1078
Asked on Friday 9 June 2006**

MR LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport (MR BARTON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to my comments during an appropriation speech on Thursday 8 June regarding funding for the Young Athletes Assistance Program—

Will the Government change the dates of application to allow students who are still facing State selection trials to apply for grants in 2006?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Beaudesert for his question. As the Member is aware, on 11 May 2006, I released the Young Athlete Assistance Program (YAAP) 2006.

The Program provides limited financial assistance towards the costs associated with travel to and accommodation at State, national or international events, or State school championships for young Queensland athletes who have gained selection to compete at such events.

I recognise that not every child selected to compete at a State, national or international level will receive assistance. However, the Program does provide a level of support not previously available and will be managed such that participants in both summer and winter sports are able to apply.

The Program will open twice a year to cater for both summer and winter sports seasons and thus enabling a greater number of children to seek assistance.

Demand for assistance under YAAP has been unprecedented with the Department receiving over 3,500 applications for assistance. Applications have been received from Coolangatta to the Torres Strait and west to Mount Isa, across a wide range of sports.

The winter round of the Program closed on 8 June 2006 and the assessment process has begun. Successful applicants will be announced by mid July 2006.