

Question on Notice
No. 1331
Asked on 31 October 2006

Mr Gibson asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

QUESTION:

With reference to a significant number of constituent complaints that have been brought to my attention in recent times reporting concerns such as: a significant decrease in funding for disabled children; teacher aide time reductions; students with disabilities who are not attending school because their needs are not being attended to; and specialist teachers and therapists who have massive work loads and unrealistic client loads due to continued Government cuts—
What actual steps has the Government taken to address these problems (reported separately by each concern)?

ANSWER:

I would be pleased to deal with any specific concerns raised by your constituents. At this point in time, my office has no record of you making representations on behalf of any constituent and can only respond to the broad generalisations you make in your question.

Funding in support of students with disabilities has been increased by the Government; there has been no cut to the funding available to support students with disabilities.

From the commencement of the 2006 school year, an additional 79 teachers, 1900 hours of additional teacher aide time per week and three additional therapists were employed in support of students with disabilities.

Schools in the Gympie electorate were allocated an additional 0.5 teacher and 31.1 teacher aide hours per week for 2006 over and above the 2005 allocation.

As reported in the 2006–07 Budget, the Government has demonstrated its commitment to supporting students with disabilities through a four year \$37.9m commitment to provide further additional specialist assistance.