

Question on Notice

No. 1377

Asked on 31 October 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the growth in school-based apprenticeships in Queensland highlighted in the Queensland Skills Plan Quarterly Report tabled on 1 November 2006 —

What progress is occurring in the Brisbane south area?

ANSWER:

Queensland continues to lead the nation in the uptake of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, accounting for 45 per cent of all commencements nationally for the March 2006 quarter — the latest available national data.

Across Queensland, school-based apprenticeship and traineeship commencements have grown significantly over the past few years, with 6916 commencements in 2005, compared to 6521 in 2004 and 5536 in 2003.

Brisbane south commencements for 2005 were 1035, compared to 987 in 2004 and 969 in 2003. The Brisbane south area takes in the Brisbane metropolitan area south of the Brisbane River, Redlands and Logan shires.

In many skills shortage areas, Brisbane south has also achieved strong levels of growth. In 2003, some 60 students commenced school-based apprenticeships across engineering, construction and automotive. Commencement numbers have increased significantly in these important industries, with 176 commencements in 2004 and 192 in 2005.

The Beattie Government is committed to ensuring that school-based apprenticeships and traineeships continue to grow and assist in meeting skills shortages in vital industries.