

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1508**  
**Asked on 29 November 2006**

Mr Rickuss asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the internal suspension rooms that have been introduced in some Queensland schools to manage students' behaviour-

1. Which Queensland State schools currently utilise such rooms?
2. In what circumstances will students be placed into such rooms?
3. What guidelines have been issued regarding the physical specifications, use and supervision requirements for such rooms?
4. How can parents, students and other interested persons access a copy of Education Queensland's comprehensive policy on the use of internal suspension rooms as a part of schools' behaviour management practices?

**ANSWER:**

1. Education Queensland does not use the terms 'internal suspension' or 'internal suspension rooms'. Students on a 1–5 or 6–20 day suspension are prohibited from attending the school. Schools have a range of 'responsible behaviour' options they may consider when dealing with behaviour issues. One of the strategies available is a 'Time Out' strategy. This helps maintain standards of behaviour and helps students develop positive behaviours. It could involve the use of a separate supervised room or setting, but no statistical information is collected centrally about which schools use this strategy.
2. 'Time Out' helps students calm down and to manage their own behaviour, and, as a strategy, reduces the frequency of a particular behaviour.
3. Education Queensland's *Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment* policy affirms the department's commitment to safe and supportive learning environments for all students, and outlines procedures for schools to follow if using any 'Time Out' processes.
4. The *Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment* policy is available on the Department of Education, Training and the Arts website or through the school principal.