

Question on Notice

No. 385

Asked on 9 March 2006

MRS STUCKEY asked the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the integration of children who suffer learning and communication disabilities into the mainstream education system during the 2005 school year –

- (1) How many children with these disabilities received one on one resource support at mainstream schools?
- (2) How many requested assistance and fitted the criteria but did not receive the amount of resources allocated per child for the purposes of integration both in hours per week and in financial terms?
- (3) What is being done to establish special needs units in mainstream schools for children not medically classified as intellectually impaired and precluded from attending a special school, but still require one on one care in a mainstream school environment?

ANSWER:

1) & (2)

Education Queensland does not have a disability category called 'learning and/or communication disabilities' that allows for systemic data collection or reporting on students who are integrated into mainstream settings.

Education Queensland provides support to students who have learning difficulties through the provision of support teachers: learning difficulties. These teachers assist classroom teachers to build support for students with learning difficulties who need assistance in the class environment to access the curriculum. There are 604 of these teachers working across Queensland primary schools. Additionally, 329 teachers provide learning support for students in secondary schools.

- 3) Regional requests for special education units or special education classes in mainstream schools are considered through an annual process that is coordinated and approved centrally on a priority needs basis.

Students with intellectual difficulties in mainstream schools without a unit or special class can also access specialist services from school based support teachers (learning difficulties), teacher aides and advisory visiting teachers.