

**Question on Notice  
No 522  
Asked on 19 April 2006**

**Question**

**Mr Messenger** asked the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) –

With reference to Questions on Notice number 236 , paragraph (2) asked on 9 March 2005, in which my colleague Mr Hopper asked “for each of the last two financial years and for the year to date (reported separately), what is the number of ... (b) classroom teachers on stress leave...” and as the answer that was provided in relation to that question only revealed the number of WorkCover stress claims accepted for teachers employed by the Department of Education and the Arts, moreover, those figures were only as current as 2004–05.

- (1) Will he provide figures or any other data revealing the total number of WorkCover stress claims made by teachers employed by the Department of Education and the Arts for each of the last three financial year to date (reported separately)?
- (2) What are the most recent figures available on the number of WorkCover stress claims accepted for teachers employed by the Department of Education and the Arts (i.e. after 2004–05)?
- (3) What is the Government’s current policy in relation to stress-related leave for teachers employed by the Department of Education and the Arts?

**Answer**

- (1) Number of stress claims made by teachers

Year	Total claims	Total employees
2002–03	233	39 114
2003–04	222	39 982
2004–05	188	40 406
2005–06* (*as at 31/3/06)	120	40 755

\*MOHRI average using headcount

- (2) Number of stress claims accepted – teachers

Year	Claims accepted
2002–03	125
2003–04	136
2004–05	101
2005–06* (*as at 31/3/06)	55

**Note:** All WorkCover data is based on the year of injury as determined by WorkCover Queensland. The above figures are subject to change as claims may be lodged for earlier years.

### (3) Policy in relation to stress-related leave for teachers

All staff, including teachers, have access to a range of leave entitlements including those in relation to illness or injury.

Education Queensland has programs to minimise stress in its workforce, including an Organisational Health Unit with a network of employee advisors, rehabilitation consultants and health and safety consultants.

The Department employs psychologists and social workers located throughout Queensland as part of its Employee Assistance Service (EAS). These psychologists and social workers provide confidential counselling support to employees and can be accessed by employees at their discretion.

The Department also provides workplace rehabilitation to employees who sustain work and non-work related injury or illness, in accordance with the Department's rehabilitation policy. The Department employs rehabilitation consultants and has trained over 800 school-based rehabilitation coordinators located throughout Queensland to provide rehabilitation case management services to employees.