

Question on Notice

No. 745

Asked on 11 May 2006

Mr Quinn asked the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford)

QUESTION:

Will he detail the number of State schools that have smoke alarms installed reporting separately (a) the State electorate in which the State school is located, (b) the name of the State school and (c) the number of smoke alarms installed at that State school?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education and the Arts does not keep a central register of smoke alarms in state schools.

I can advise that departmental design guidelines for new schools provide for the installation of fire protection systems including smoke detectors in nominated areas such as Administration Blocks, Resource Centres and Practical Studies Areas.

The department complies with the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 1991* and engages QBuild to undertake regular inspections of fire safety equipment and services in state schools.

Schools are also required by the Regulation to have an emergency evacuation plan that can be followed in the event of a fire and must conduct one fire drill each year. As part of their preparation for such an event schools conduct regular fire drills, usually between two and four each year. Staff are trained in evacuation procedures and in the use of fire equipment and information and checklists are provided by the department to ensure that schools are well prepared for a fire emergency.

The member should also be aware that the overwhelming majority of schools have an electronic alarm system that will be activated in the event of a fire to initiate an evacuation.