

Question on Notice

No. 795

Asked on 23 May 2006

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

QUESTION:

1. As under section 24A of the *Education (General Provisions) Act* 1989, the Government is empowered to charge a fee for distance education provided by a Queensland State School, will he outline where a fee was imposed?
2. How much revenue has been collected through the imposition of this fee for each of 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05 and 2005–06 (reported separately)?
3. What purpose has the revenue raised from the imposition of this fee been (or will be) put to?

ANSWER:

1. The fee applies to students that enrol by choice in a State school of distance education rather than attending their local State school. There is provision for the fee to be waived in certain circumstances, namely financial hardship and disadvantage through lack of educational continuity, or in exceptional circumstances.
2. The fee was only introduced on 1 January 2006. The Government introduced a pay by instalment option, giving parents the opportunity to pay \$125 per term. Some applications for exemption are also being processed. Fees for the 2006 school year have not been completed.
3. The fees collected provide a modest contribution towards the additional cost of providing a program of distance education to home based, by choice learners compared with the cost of schooling in a state school.