

Question on Notice

No. 922

Asked on 26 May 2006

MRS PRATT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (MR WELFORD) —

QUESTION:

With reference to Advanced Visiting Teachers who go from school to school helping disabled children integrate into normal classrooms and as reports indicate their numbers are being reduced—

- (1) How many Advanced Visiting Teachers existed each year for the past five years and what are the current numbers?
- (2) How many Advanced Visiting Teachers are employed in the Nanango Electorate and at what schools?
- (3) Is it the Government's aim to phase out Advanced Visiting Teachers?
- (4) What measures will be put in place to ensure their duties aren't placed on other teachers, thereby infringing on their duties?

ANSWER:

Education Queensland does not have a category of teachers with the position title of Advanced Visiting Teacher. However, Education Queensland does have teachers with a position title of Advisory Visiting Teacher (AVT) who provide support and advice to classroom teachers as part of the array of special education services in a region.

The classroom teacher is principally responsible for the educational program of a student with a disability in the class. The main role of the AVT is to support school staff through advice and programming guidance. AVTs provide support across a range of schools.

The number of AVTs employed each year varies due to the changing number, profile and distribution of students with disabilities in an area and through the approach taken for the delivery of special education services in the area.

In 2006, approximately 27 teachers and more than 760 hours of teacher aide time per week are provided to special education units and special education classes in the Nanango Electorate to support students with disabilities. In addition, teachers of students with disabilities are able to access the AVT services available from three regions (Moreton, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay–Burnett) that form part of the electorate.