

Question on Notice

No. 997

Asked on 7 June 2006

MRS E CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford)

QUESTION:

With reference to the introduction of the Prep Year in 2007 –

How many schools in the Gladstone Electorate face the possibility of composite classes for prep year students given their current size and projected growth?

ANSWER:

As is established practice in our state schools, at the start of the year, schools are provided with a provisional allocation of classroom teachers based on forecast student enrolment levels. Classes are provisionally formed on the basis of this forecast with the staffing levels and class formations confirmed or adjusted for that school year on the basis of the Day 8 (eighth day of the school year) actual enrolment level. Principals locally determine class structures from within the allocated resources based on Day 8 following consultation with teachers and the school community.

In the Gladstone Electorate, there are 15 state primary schools. Five of the 15 schools are one and two teacher schools where composite classes form the current staffing structure. Based on school size and anticipated prep enrolments, it is possible other schools will not have enough prep enrolments to form separate classes of prep students and will need to combine with other year level students. Precisely which schools will fall into this category will not be known until prep enrolments are finalised early next year. The structure of classes is a matter determined by the professional judgment of the principal and staff.

The remaining schools are larger schools and it is anticipated they will have sufficient prep enrolments to form most classes made up of prep year students only.