

Question on Notice
No. 130
Asked on 20 February 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Howard State School in my electorate, which has just lost a full time teacher and has had to re-arrange its entire school population because of a shortfall of two students in its annual census and, given the fact that it would be much harder to get a supply teacher in Howard than in Stafford if student numbers increase again—

Will he allow country schools to be five students down on numbers, for example, before removing a teacher to allow for the greater hardships of country schools?

ANSWER:

Our Government is committed to providing every student in Queensland with a quality education, no matter where they live.

As such, Education Queensland works closely with all schools to ensure they have sufficient physical and human resources to meet the educational needs of all students, taking into account any particular local circumstances. Staff are allocated to schools according to the number of students in the school and to ensure class sizes are maintained at manageable levels.

I acknowledge that some schools need to reallocate teaching resources when student numbers fall. Every effort is made to minimise any affect on the educational outcomes of students and ensure the teaching staff are well supported in any transition, including in the provision of supply teachers from time to time.

I note your concern about 'supply' teachers, however I am advised that Fraser Coast has a pool of teachers readily available to take up positions on a needs basis at Howard State School and other schools in the area.

I was also pleased recently to be able to support Howard SS recently with a grant \$23,400 under the 'Tomorrow's School's' program.