

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1920**

**Asked on 14 November 2007**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to his department's annual report tabled in Parliament this week and specifically to page 239 in appendix five which deals with disciplinary absences—

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the (a) categories (eg serious assault etc) included under the reason 'physical misconduct', including a breakdown of the numbers involved in each category this year as well as the same period for the previous two years (reported separately) and (b) victim (ie student, teacher etc) involved in the reason 'physical misconduct', including a breakdown of the numbers involved in each category this year as well as the same period for the previous two years?

**ANSWER:**

Allegations of assault are a matter for the Queensland Police Service.

The introduction of the Code of School Behaviour has placed a stronger emphasis on discipline in Queensland state schools. The Code provides clear and consistent guidelines for students, teachers, principals and parents about what behaviour is and is not acceptable in our schools.

We want to ensure students can go to school in a safe and supportive environment where bullying is not tolerated and there are clear boundaries for everyone. Our schools set high standards of behaviour and take action against students who do the wrong thing, as shown in the increased number of students disciplined for physical misconduct.

Data held by my department on school disciplinary absences for physical misconduct are reported in the Annual Report. Sub-category data is provided in the following table for 2006-07 and the previous two years. It is not possible to identify the exact category of victim/s involved in the behaviour incidents which resulted in a disciplinary absence for physical misconduct.

Report year	Absence reason: Physical misconduct involving:	Short suspension		Long suspension		Exclusion		Cancellation	
		Total incidents	Ave. rate per 1 000 students per term	Total incidents	Ave. rate per 1 000 students per term	Total incidents	Ave. rate per 1 000 students per term	Total incidents	Ave. rate per 1 000 students per term
2006-07	Physical misconduct not involving an object	11 013	5.6	1 029	0.5	179	0.1	-	-
	Physical misconduct involving an object	3 002	1.5	381	0.2	73	0.0	-	-
2005-06	Physical misconduct not involving an object	9 636	5.3	852	0.5	159	0.1	-	-
	Physical misconduct involving an object	2 713	1.5	302	0.2	74	0.0	-	-
2004-05	Physical misconduct not involving an object	8 464	4.7	613	0.3	136	0.1	-	-
	Physical misconduct involving an object	2 439	1.3	274	0.2	91	0.1	-	-