

Question on Notice

No. 1934

Asked on 15 November 2007

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

QUESTION:

What has been the latest outcome of the introduction of the new Prep year into schools including those in Capalaba?

ANSWER:

As at 3 August 2007, 257 children were enrolled full-time in the Prep Year across state schools in the Capalaba electorate.

The results of a survey in June of parents and carers of Prep students enrolled in Queensland state schools showed an overwhelming 92 per cent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the implementation of Prep in their child's school.

Parents were most satisfied that their school made them feel welcome (96 per cent), that their child was enjoying Prep (96 per cent), that staff were approachable (95 per cent), that Prep was developing their child's social skills (94 per cent), and that they were provided with adequate information to prepare them and their child for Prep (92 per cent).

State schools in the Capalaba electorate have reported positively about the outcomes of Prep in 2007.

Alexandra Hills State School reports that prep classes were well resourced and the community now has an understanding that the school is a Prep to Year 7 school, not a school with a separate preschool.

Parents were well briefed prior to the commencement of Prep at Birkdale South State School and, as a result, great relationships have developed between parents and the school.

At Capalaba State College the transition to Year 1 is now more seamless and children moving to Year 1 are less anxious having been accustomed to a five day program. The school principal reports that professional development for teachers and teacher aides has reinforced the concept of the continuity of curriculum across the early years.

Students with physical impairments at Coolnwynpin State School have been supported in Prep through the Coolnwynpin Special Education Unit. Continuity of learning has increased because of the five day program and the literacy and numeracy skills of the students have been enhanced as a consequence.

There are high levels of parent participation in and understanding of the integrated curriculum at Vienna Woods State School due to a varied communication strategy including parent nights, mothers' nights and fathers' nights.

In summary, the outcome of Prep has been very successful across the State and in state schools in the Capalaba electorate.