

Question on Notice

No. 1936

Asked on 15 November 2007

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

QUESTION:

What is the government doing to assist in meeting the demands for specialist teachers particularly in regional areas?

ANSWER:

The department has been working to rectify the shortage of specialist teachers, particularly in regional areas of Queensland, with two specifically targeted initiatives.

The first has involved pre-service teachers who will graduate this year, undertaking a 10-week paid internship in rural, remote and high demand locations. The interns all have expertise in subjects that are difficult to staff and they will be guaranteed permanent employment on the successful completion of their coursework and internship.

A growing number of university teacher education courses now include an internship component.

The second initiative is a scholarship program for teachers. In Semester 2 2007, the Department supported thirty-five teachers to retrain in special education.

For 2008, all regions have identified the specialist areas that they are finding difficult to staff. Up to 100 teachers will be supported to undertake a Graduate Certificate course at a Queensland university in a specialist area. The scholarships are in areas such as senior maths; senior chemistry; senior physics, industrial technology and design; and special education.

The course fees for teachers to undertake the Graduate Certificate program are being funded by the department.

An evaluation of the scholarships is underway to determine future initiatives.