

Question on Notice

No. 276

Asked on 6 March 2007

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

QUESTION: With reference to the new Prep Year in Queensland -
What safety procedures has Education Queensland implemented to ensure that young Prep students are (a) both identifiable and well-supervised by teaching staff during class breaks and (b) able to access toilet facilities with adequate supervision?

ANSWER:

Staff in each school understand and accept responsibility for the safety and care of every student from Prep to Year 12. Individual school policies and procedures are developed through school behaviour management and risk management processes. Schools employ strategies and routines to transition Prep children safely to their new school environment in areas such as lunch routines, playground activities and toilet visits.

- (a) With Prep integrated fully into the primary school system, the safety and supervision of prep children is a whole of school priority. Strategies vary from school to school and can include having separate lunch times for Prep and designated play areas for younger children. Schools draw up timetables that ensure classes are supervised by appropriate staff – for example, teachers on duty with younger grades are often adults with whom these children are familiar.
- (b) Access to toilet facilities with adequate supervision is a normal classroom management issue. Prep teachers are very well trained to use a range of strategies when young children leave the classroom. Once all children are trained in toilet routines, teachers might send students to the toilets in pairs or use a tag system to track which students are out of the room. These procedures have been developed successfully in the trial/phase-in prep schools over the past four years.