

Question on Notice

No. 338

Asked on 7 March 2007

Mrs Desley Scott MP asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

QUESTION:

Will he advise how successful the Continuing Education Centre at Kingston College has been at re-engaging young people and giving them a second chance.

ANSWER:

The Kingston Centre for Continuing Secondary Education provides flexible learning and a sense of community for many students who would have remained lost to the mainstream system. Each year, approximately 250 young people re-engage with formal learning within the flexible, yet structured, setting. The success story of this centre has spread, with over one quarter of 2006 enrolments coming from beyond the traditional catchment area.

One fifth of these students are identified as students with disadvantages arising from socioeconomic, cultural, and/or linguistic factors. These 'at risk' young adults are supported by dedicated staff who reinforce the successes of each individual. The students graduate with a sense of satisfaction and worth, which has been sustained through encouragement, understanding and the adaptation of curriculum to their needs.

After completing their courses, students move into work or continue to advance their education either at the centre or with other education providers, such as TAFE.

In 2006, a one-year internally assessed Senior English and Maths A (Queensland Studies Authority approved) course was trialled. Half of the class received High Achievement (HA) or Very High Achievement (VHA) in one or both of these subjects.

Another English communication subject saw over one third of the 40 students enrolled in the subject achieve an HA or a VHA. In a pre-vocational maths subject, nearly three quarters (73 per cent) of the 44 students enrolled in the subject gained an HA or a VHA.

The focus on completing at least two subjects in Year 10 or senior builds a sense of success in these students. The short-term, everyday maths and English classes improve student confidence and readiness for Year 10. The centre provides the only opportunity for evening Year 10 classes and, in many subjects, the only opportunity for external studies.