

Question on Notice

No. 533

Asked on Thursday 15 March 2007

MR LAWLOR asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

How many students have been provided with free school transport in the electorate of Southport in 2006-07 (year to date)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southport for his question.

The School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS) is a long standing Government assistance scheme that provides assistance to students whose access to education is impeded by distance, financial disadvantage or disability.

Different types of assistance are available to eligible students under STAS. This assistance may range from Government funded travel on buses, rail or ferry services through to the payment of a conveyance allowance to parents/guardians for driving their student/s to and from school or a transport service, or taxi and mini bus transport for students with disabilities.

While data on students eligible under the STAS is not stored on an electoral basis, I can advise the number of eligible students assisted in 2006 by the relevant Queensland Transport region.

In the South East region, 70 500 students received assistance. South East covers the Local Government areas of Noosa, Maroochy, Caloundra, Kilcoy, Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Brisbane, Esk, Laidley, Ipswich, Boonah, Beaudesert, Logan and the Gold Coast.

In the 2006-07 financial year, the Government will spend over \$140m statewide on STAS. This will assist approximately 140 000 students.