

Question on Notice

No. 59

Asked on 7 February 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent rollout of Prep throughout the education system and, in particular, the sun safety of these young children —

- (1) Why has the Government not ensured appropriate shade facilities for the new Prep classes at Elanora State School?
- (2) Why do State schools appear to be exempt from shade provisions when childcare centres are not?
- (3) What does he plan to do to rectify the situation?

ANSWER:

As usual, the assumption underlying this question is false. I am pleased to be able to advise the Member about what is happening at Elanora State School, although I am sure a conversation with any responsible officer at the school could have alerted her to the error of her claim about this matter.

1. Our Government initiated a major building program at Elanora State School in readiness for the introduction of Prep. As such, a new two classroom building was constructed at a cost of \$550,000. In addition, two existing classrooms were refurbished and there were minor improvements to the existing preschool classrooms.

The construction of the new building involved the demolition of the existing small sandpit. Subsequently, the school constructed a new sandpit approximately 50% larger than the original one. An order was placed for a shade cover for the new sandpit in February and the school is awaiting the contractor.

2. Childcare facilities are required to comply with the Child Care Act 2002. State education facilities guidelines provide for sheltered areas for all outdoor learning and shade over play structures.
3. There are appropriate shade facilities at Elanora State School and I am not aware of anything that needs rectifying. The Honourable Member could avoid further embarrassing herself, if in future she bothers to check the facts before making false assertions.