

Question on Notice
No. 749
Asked on 23 May 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he explain the strategy to provide literacy support for students who may need some extra assistance in this area?

ANSWER:

Our Government is committed to ensure that every teacher has the support they need to deliver high quality literacy programs to the diverse range of students who enrol in state schools.

The *National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy* found that quality class teaching makes the single biggest difference to student literacy outcomes, including students with diverse abilities, cultural backgrounds and difficult life circumstances.

For this reason, our Government is implementing *Literacy – the Key to Learning: Framework for Action 2006–2008* which focuses on providing class teachers and their teacher aides with quality training in diagnostic and intervention strategies to support the literacy needs of every student.

In addition to this intensive training, in 2007, our Government introduced a new grant that enables schools to employ additional teachers to support classroom teachers in upper primary with additional tutoring for students who did not reach Year 5 national literacy benchmarks in 2005 and 2006.

These new initiatives are in addition to the 933 Support Teachers: Learning Difficulties who assist classroom teachers to provide extra literacy support for all students.

Each year, our Government provides \$66.2m for teacher aides to work under the direction of teachers in providing intervention strategies in literacy and numeracy.

Ongoing additional literacy support will continue to be provided through grants, including the Year 2 Diagnostic Net, Literacy Enhancement and Indigenous Tuition.