

Question on Notice

No. 1022

Asked on 5 June 2008

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

QUESTION: Will he inform the House of any recent initiatives to support schools in areas of relative socio-economic disadvantage?

ANSWER:

Giving every child every chance to succeed is a priority for our Government. Some children who live in low socio-economic areas must overcome greater hurdles than others to successfully participate in school. Schools in these communities sometimes struggle with student disengagement, resulting in reduced retention rates, higher absenteeism, truancy, low achievement and poor behaviour.

That is why my department has a range of recent initiatives that will support schools in areas such as the Waterford electorate.

These initiatives include:

- The Believe Achieve Succeed Strategy which will focus on Strong Leadership, High Performing Staff, Successful Students and Engaged Community and give extra support and flexibility to schools through:
 - recruiting, selecting, retaining and transferring teachers in identified schools
 - delivering induction programs and professional development on best practice teaching and learning to combat disadvantage
 - improved literacy and numeracy outcomes
 - promoting positive approaches to behaviour support and social and emotional learning
 - piloting multi-disciplinary intervention teams in schools to support children and families. The teams will tackle truancy and work with students at risk of disengaging from learning and with their families
- Developing a range of pilot programs in response to the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs' (MCEETYA) commitment to trial pilot initiatives to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes in low socio-economic school communities by the end of 2008.
- The *State Government Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care Funding Program*; which has enabled 131 state primary and secondary schools across the state to introduce or enhance their chaplaincy and pastoral care programs. In recognition of the challenges facing disadvantaged schools, funds were granted to schools in low socio-economic areas with 100 or more students. Schools have been able to engage or enhance the services of a chaplain, pastoral care coordinator, Youth Support Coordinator or other youth worker. Seven schools in the Waterford electorate have received funding under this initiative, including:
 - Beenleigh State High School
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 - Loganlea State High School
 - Mabel Park State School
 - Marsden State High School
 - Waterford State School