

Question on Notice

No. 1606

Asked on 30 October 2008

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

QUESTION:

Will he advise (a) how many teachers joined the workforce over the last 10 years (by year), (b) how many of those teachers have subsequently resigned from teaching in State schools (by year) and (c) the average length of career (to date) for all teachers who entered the workforce in the last 10 years?

ANSWER:

The attrition rate for beginning teachers in Queensland State schools is very low at only 3 per cent each year.

More than 90 per cent of teachers who commenced teaching over the past 5 years remain in teaching.

The Bligh Government recognises however that although relatively small, there is a trend of teachers leaving the profession within four or five years of entering the classroom.

To combat this trend, the member for Surfers Paradise will be aware that I recently announced a series of new programs that will help attract the best graduate teachers and retain them in schools and regions where they are most needed.

Bonded scholarships will be offered to high-calibre final year undergraduate students to teach in subjects where shortages have been identified, or in challenging and complex schools.

The implementation of a 'sister school' program in partnership with universities will provide graduates with initial teaching experience in a location of their choice, followed by a placement in a difficult-to-staff location with a guaranteed return to their preferred location after an agreed time.

We will also continue to work closely with the Federal Government on their plans to reward quality teaching through the National Partnership agreement reached at the most recent COAG meeting.

We welcome the Commonwealth's significant investment in this area, and the Bligh Government's new initiatives will complement these moves by the Federal Government.

This is another example of the state and the Commonwealth working together to achieve better outcomes for all Queensland students.

Data on teacher career lengths is only available from the year 2000.

a) Teachers joining the workforce

APPOINTMENT YEAR	New teachers (full-time equivalent)
2000	1816.10
2001	1967.05
2002	2137.37
2003	1947.73
2004	1746.00
2005	2116.30
2006	1614.70
2007	2235.95
2008	1945.04

b) Teachers joining the workforce who have subsequently resigned

APPOINTMENT YEAR	New teachers (FTE)	Year of resignation								
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
2000	1816.1	3.3%	5.1%	3.7%	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%	3.3%	2.8%	2.6%
2001	1967.05	0.0%	2.6%	4.3%	2.8%	2.6%	3.1%	3.5%	3.8%	3.5%
2002	2137.37	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	3.8%	2.4%	3.2%	3.9%	4.4%	3.7%
2003	1947.73	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	2.7%	2.8%	2.5%	3.2%	3.3%
2004	1746	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%	3.8%
2005	2116.3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	2.4%	2.1%	2.8%
2006	1614.7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	3.3%	2.9%
2007	2235.95	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	4.1%
2008	1945.04	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%

(c) Information is only available for teachers that have joined the Education Queensland workforce since 2000. The average length of service for each year is as follows:

Year of Appointment	Average Length of Service	Maximum length of service possible
2000	6.4	8.9
2001	5.9	7.9
2002	5.2	6.9
2003	4.7	5.9
2004	4.0	4.9
2005	3.3	3.9
2006	2.5	2.9
2007	1.5	1.9
2008	0.7	0.9