

Question on Notice

No. 1697

Asked on 12 November 2008

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

QUESTION: Will he advise if the strategy to provide literacy support for students needing extra assistance has been successful?

ANSWER:

Our Government is funding two major initiatives, *Literacy—the Key to Learning: Framework for Action* and *Literacy Commitment — Upper Primary Literacy Assistance Program*.

Research shows that quality teaching makes the biggest difference to student outcomes and therefore, funding is currently directed towards the professional development of all Prep to Year 9 teachers in all key learning areas.

This professional development is underway, providing three days of intensive training for all Prep to Year 3 teacher aides and five days professional development for all Prep to Year 9 teachers. To date 4866 early years' teacher aides, 7131 Years 1 to 3 teachers and 404 Prep teachers have been trained. The Years 4 to 7 teachers will participate in their five days professional development in 2009 and the Years 8 and 9 teachers in 2010.

The allocated budget in 2007–2008 for the development and delivery of the professional development was \$11.7 million and for 2008–2009 is \$18 million.

An updated model of literacy intervention has also been developed in line with the *Literacy Framework*. This model will maximise the impact of the current 941 Support Teachers: Learning Difficulties whose role is to assist students requiring special assistance.

In addition, through the Upper Primary Literacy Grant (UPLG), the Bligh Government provides \$35.6 million over four years (2007–2010) to improve literacy for all Years 6 and 7 students in state, Catholic and Independent schools identified through the national literacy testing program as needing additional intensive literacy support.

The 2007 report from all schools across the three schooling sectors involved in the UPLG program showed improvement in targeted literacies for 78.13 per cent of the Year 6 students and 77.3 per cent of the Year 7 students involved in the program. In February 2009, a report on the improvement for students involved in the 2008 program will be available.

In 2008, the national tests in literacy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students were conducted for the first time. Data from 2008 will form the baseline for future assessment of the efficacy of literacy strategies.