

Question on Notice

No. 176

Asked on 26 February 2008

MR WENDT asked the Minister for Education, Training and the Arts (Mr Welford) —

QUESTION: Will he report on the proposal to provide teachers in State Schools and TAFE institutes with a dedicated computer, particularly in regard to schools within the electorate of Ipswich West?

ANSWER:

In June 2007, our Government approved funding of \$70m over four years to supply all permanent state school and TAFE teachers, who work two or more days per week, with a dedicated laptop computer. Approximately 44 000 education and training teachers are eligible for computers as part of this initiative.

A Computers for Teachers trial was conducted in 2006 to determine how exclusive access to a computer helped teachers enhance their teaching practices and boost student learning. The trial was an outstanding success with teachers reporting that the computers had become an essential part of their classroom teaching and lesson preparation.

Teachers in all schools in the State electorate of Ipswich West received laptop computers during the trial in 2006. The enthusiastic participation and effort from teachers in your electorate contributed to the success of the trial, which led to a statewide staged implementation.

To date, more than 10 000 computers have been delivered to state school teachers in over 440 schools across Queensland. In Ipswich West, 447 laptops were delivered to teachers in 21 schools at a cost of more than \$520 000.

Also as a part of the Computers for Teachers program, our Government has invested over \$400 000 to provide schools in Ipswich West with a wireless internet connection and over \$110 000 for a professional development program for teachers .

TAFE teachers in the electorate will receive computers as part of the initiative as the rollout continues.