

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1882**

**Asked on 27 November 2008**

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

**QUESTION:** What measures are in place to reduce the incidence of crime and vandalism in schools in the Sandgate Electorate over the Christmas-New Year holiday period?

**ANSWER:** There are a number of strategies in place to minimise the incidence of arson, theft and vandalism in state schools.

In 2008–09 the State Government allocated \$3.037m to the School Security Program to help reduce security related incidents in schools.

The School Security Program provides the following security measures to schools:

- alarm response by police, State Government Security (SGS) and private security firms
- security patrols and alarm systems monitored by SGS
- dedicated staff that provide security advice and support to schools
- promotion of the School Watch Program
- crime prevention partnerships with Police and other authorities.

These strategies have assisted in a reduction of 24 per cent in the numbers of insurance claims for break and enter and vandalism over the past 12 months.

Schools implement a number of other security risk management strategies prior to the start of school holiday periods. These include:

- an end of term checklist which details preventative security related activities that must be performed by schools prior to the end of term
- an increase in the number of security patrols during school holiday periods in areas of identified risk
- reminders to students, parents and neighbouring residents to phone the School Watch hotline on 131 788 if they witness or suspect acts of theft or vandalism to school property.

Schools in the Sandgate electorate benefit from all these initiatives.

The Bligh Government is urging community members to continue to be vigilant during the six week Christmas holiday break as part of the successful school security campaign.