

**Question on Notice**

**No. 297**

**Asked on 11 March 2008**

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

QUESTION: With respect to the 'After School Care Program' currently operating at many State Government schools —

Will he investigate how his department can better support this important program?

ANSWER:

School Aged Care services, including before and after school care and vacation care, are licensed by the Office for Children, within the Department of Communities. The services are delivered by Parents and Citizens Associations, not for profit organisations and, on occasions, for profit organisations.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts supports the Department of Communities by making premises available on state school sites wherever possible. My Department also helps the Department of Communities to assess requests for capital funding to upgrade school-age care premises.

Currently, there are in excess of 560 school-age care services in Queensland, of which more than 272 are located on Education Queensland sites, including 10 schools in the Nicklin electorate.

School-age care is an important community service which supports parents' participation in the workforce, while providing quality outside-of-school-hours care for children.