

Question on Notice

No. 469

Asked on Tuesday 15 April 2008

MR MALONE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

With respect to teachers employed by Education Queensland –

- (1) What number of teachers were successful in pursuing compensation claims for work-related stress for 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (to date)?
- (2) What were the total and individual amounts of compensation claims paid to these teachers?
- (3) What number of teachers who pursued compensation claims for work-related stress for 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (to date) were unsuccessful?
- (4) What number of teachers whose cases for work-related stress compensation are still pending?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations that the response to questions (1), (3) and (4) is:

Injury Year	Accepted	Denied	Pending
2004-2005	118	77	0
2005-2006	122	96	1
2006-2007	94	123	2
2007-2008	35	49	16

Note:

- “Accepted” includes all accepted claims as well as those that were accepted but subsequently ceased as entitlement to compensation ceased;
- ‘Denied’ claims includes all applications for compensation that were denied;
- The 19 ‘Pending’ claims were all received by WorkCover Queensland in the 2007-2008 financial year; and
- The change in claim outcomes can be largely attributed to the adoption of an interpretation of ‘reasonable management action’ by Q-COMP (and WorkCover Queensland) from about September 2006. The interpretation (known as the ‘McArthur Decision’) was based on the decision of President Hall in *Q-COMP v Education Queensland [2005] QIC 46; 179 QGIG 491 (8 July 2005)*.

I am advised that the response to question (2) is:

Injury year	Payments to date
2004-2005	\$3.7M
2005-2006	\$4.0M
2006-2007	\$1.9M
2007-2008	\$0.3M

DEIR advises that because injury costs develop over time, it is not valid to compare the total costs of individual claims from older injury years with those of more recent years. As such 'individual' amounts are not summarised here. However, a summary of how claims costs from different injury years are developing over time can be seen below.

Injury Year	Financial Development Year			
	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
2004-2005	\$1.36M	\$1.52M	\$0.75M	\$0.06M
2005-2006	\$1.56M	\$1.69M	\$0.72M	
2006-2007	\$1.04M	\$0.84M		
2007-2008	\$0.33M			

I am advised that costs below the double line are still developing and cannot be compared equally to costs in the fully developed portions (i.e. numbers above the double line). At exactly the same time in 2007, there had been \$0.72M paid in Year 0 for the 2006-2007 Injury year.