

Question on Notice

No. 470

Asked on 15 April 2008

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

QUESTION: With 10 per cent of Bundaberg State High School students classified as special needs students —

- (1) What amount of extra funding was allocated to this school to cover the additional requirements of the special needs students in 2007-08?
- (2) Is there a staff and funding model in place that grows with the number and needs of the students?
- (3) How are teaching and teacher aide resources allocated to meet the needs of special needs students?

ANSWER:

In 2007-08, the Bligh Government allocated an additional 97 teachers, 2507 teacher-aide hours per week and six therapists across the state to further support students with a disability. This means that in 2008, the total resources supporting students with a disability includes 3042 teachers and 76 299 teacher-aide hours per week and 163.5 therapists.

Regions receive an additional allocation for staffing resources through the Education Adjustment Program (EAP). This additional allocation is then distributed to schools based on the numbers of students enrolled in programs and their needs. The EAP reflects the frequency of adjustments being made to ensure the students access the curriculum and achieve curriculum outcomes. Students with a higher frequency of adjustments receive a larger allocation of resources to support their education. In addition, the school receives a school grant to further support the students.

On Day 8 of the 2008 school year, Bundaberg State High School had 107 students verified as having a disability and approved EAP profile. This was an increase of 6 students from Day 8, 2007. In 2008, the school received a staffing allocation of 14.6 teachers (FTE) and 391 teacher aide hours per week to provide education support programs for these students. This is an increase from 2007 of 1.5 FTE and 48.5 teacher aide hours per week.

At Bundaberg State High School, the Head of Special Education Services coordinates the allocation of teacher and teacher aide time to support the educational needs of students with a disability. Students with special needs attend both mainstream classes and classes offered through the special needs program. Teacher aide time is used to support students in a range of activities which enable them to more readily access the educational programs provided at the school.