

**Question on Notice**

**No. 616**

**Asked on 29 April 2008**

MR DICKSON asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) -

**QUESTION:**

Will he provide the names and respective values of the 20 most valuable art works owned by the Queensland Art Gallery?

**ANSWER:**

In keeping with the December 2007 decision by the Information Commissioner, I am not at liberty to release this sensitive information. To do so would not be in the public interest and would serve no purpose other than to unnecessarily add to the Queensland Art Gallery's security risks.

This position is consistent with the practice of Australian and overseas galleries and museums of not releasing information about the value of particular art works. International experience shows that risk of theft or damage is increased if the value of art works is in the public domain and has received media attention.

Higher costs in insurance premiums and increased physical and electronic surveillance of display spaces could be incurred and these costs would ultimately impact upon the taxpayer. The gallery's capacity to secure appropriate indemnification coverage, which is essential to enable it to attract major international exhibitions such as the upcoming Picasso exhibition exclusive to the Gallery of Modern Art, could also be adversely affected.