

Question on Notice

No. 1595

Asked on 28 October 2009

Ms Stone asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update of the planned kindergarten at Rochedale South State School?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and her interest in the planned kindergarten at Rochedale South State School.

In September 2008, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland, outlined the Government's long-term vision for Queensland in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*.

Part of the Bligh Government Q2 vision is the delivery of world class education and training through ensuring all children in Queensland have access to a quality early childhood education. This vision will be achieved in part, through the Queensland Government's commitment to increase the number of kindergarten services in Queensland.

Currently, only 29 per cent of Queensland's kindergarten-aged children are participating in a quality early education program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher. It is well known that the quality of learning experiences during the early years of a child's life set the stage for all future learning and development.

In March 2009, The Bligh Government committed to providing up to 240 extra kindergarten services by 2014.

This represents an investment of \$321 million by the Bligh Government to give children a flying start. The first 20 kindergarten services will be constructed and operational in 2010 and 2011. As a *Toward Q2* partner, C&K will operate most of the kindergarten services co-located on state school sites including the new service being co-located at Rochedale State School which will be operational in 2011.

Consultation with the Rochedale South School community, including the principal and Parents and Citizens Association, will occur in November 2009.

Early education programs are critical to a child's future success at school and in life this investment will be beneficial to the families in the Rochedale community and will assist them in providing a flying start for their child's education.