

Question on Notice
No. 1725
Asked on 11 November 2009

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

QUESTION:

Why has the government charged schools in Toowoomba \$20 per student to sit the NAPLAN tests (which is overseen by the schools and their staff) given the NAPLAN tests for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 provide information to the government to check if the education system is working and provide a comparison with other states?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

Costs:

No state school parent is charged a fee for the administration of the Federal Government's mandatory NAPLAN testing.

The average cost per student of administering the tests is about \$20. Queensland has one of the lowest notional per student costs in the country. In at least one other jurisdiction the notional per student cost is in excess of \$40 for NAPLAN participation.

National Agreement:

The cost of NAPLAN testing in schools is paid for through funding provided by the Federal Government.

Participation in the NAPLAN tests is a requirement under the National Education Agreement. State, Catholic and independent schools signed up to this agreement with this knowledge.

The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) administers the tests for all Queensland schools. An independent audit of the NAPLAN test budget is currently being undertaken to ensure transparency and efficiency in the test's administration.

Non-State Schools:

Independent Schools Queensland and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission requested Education Queensland recover administration costs from non-state schools rather than having the funding deducted from their Australian Government payments.