

Question on Notice

No. 1835

Asked on 24 November 2009

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

QUESTION:

How is the Queensland Government working with the Commonwealth Government under the national partnerships program to support the learning of young people in the Morayfield Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Department of Education and Training is leading the way with successful negotiations with the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, for a number of strategic National Partnership Agreements and the development of detailed Implementation Plans.

The Queensland Government has pledged to provide quality teaching in every school, every classroom, every school day. The three Smarter Schools National Partnership Agreements are the key planks by which the Bligh Government will achieve this commitment.

These agreements provide a suite of initiatives to ensure that children and young people are meeting basic literacy and numeracy standards. I am pleased to advise that overall levels of literacy and numeracy achievement are improving. Extra support is also provided, such as Literacy and Numeracy Teaching Coaches, a Summer Schools Program for students and professional development for teachers. Implementation is already substantially underway across the state and non-state schooling sectors.

As Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership schools, Morayfield State School and Morayfield East State School will be supported by Literacy and Numeracy Teaching Coaches. The Coaches will work in the classroom alongside teachers to improve learning outcomes for students. They will assist teachers to build their skills through intensive classroom support and professional development.

The Summer Schools Program targets students in Years 5, 6 and 7 who require additional literacy and numeracy support. The first round was delivered in the September 2009 school holiday period. The Summer School held at Morayfield State School was attended by 62 students from Morayfield State School, Morayfield East State School, Burpengary Meadows State School and Minimbah State School.

The second round of summer schools will take place in January 2010. Morayfield State School, Morayfield East State School, Burpengary Meadows State School and Minimbah State School will all participate in the second round of Summer Schools, with Minimbah State School as the Summer School site.

Morayfield State School will be one of the schools to benefit under the National Partnership Agreement for Low Socio-economic Status School Communities. It will receive an additional \$1,864,320 over four years to fund innovative strategies designed to improve student learning outcomes. In consultation with parents and other members of the school community, the school will develop a four-year Strategic School Plan. The Plan will commence as early as Term Four 2010, detailing a suite of local strategies across the following reform areas:

- Incentives to attract high-performing principals and teachers
- Adoption of best-practice performance management and staffing arrangements that articulate a clear role for principals
- School operational arrangements which encourage innovation and flexibility
- Provision of innovative and tailored learning opportunities
- Strengthened school accountability, and
- External partnerships with parents, other schools, businesses and communities and provision of access to extended services.