

Question on Notice
No. 2011
Asked on 7 October 2010

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

QUESTION:

With reference to vandalism to State Schools in 2009 —

As the cost of vandalism increased to \$12.7M, will the Minister inform the House what initiatives the government has to help prevent this type of crime in our schools?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Bligh government is committed to investing in education and training in Queensland, and to providing the best possible educational facilities for students across the state. This Government's unprecedented investment in our schools includes the BER program (in conjunction with the Federal Government), the \$850 million State Schools of Tomorrow (SSOT) school building and refurbishment program, the kindergarten building program, and the \$60 million Solar and Energy Efficiency in State Schools Program.

It is important to protect the facilities that children learn in, so that they may have the uninterrupted flying start to learning and life that they deserve.

I have been advised by the Department of Education and Training (the Department) that the School Security Program budget for 2010–11 is \$4.85 million and provides alarm system monitoring, alarm response, security patrols, the School Security Advisory Program, promotion of School Watch and crime prevention partnerships with the Queensland Police and other authorities. This is an increase of \$210,000 over the previous financial year.

The School Security Advisory Program comprises three field-based staff who visit schools to provide advice and guidance on security related matters.

Security Design Guidelines, Electronic Security Specifications and Security Fencing Specifications have been developed by the School Security Program to ensure that school buildings and fences are designed and constructed in a way that minimises the incidence vandalism, arson, break and enters and theft from state schools.

Fencing specifications have been recently reviewed and improved after the initial 2008–2009 trial and appraisal of security fencing in the Redcliffe/Deception Bay area.

Schools are provided with resources to assist in the prevention of vandalism/illegal activity, such as:

- School Security Handbook
- end of term checklists
- fire risk assessments
- arson prevention fact sheets.

The School Security Program currently funds the monitoring of 893 security alarm systems in schools.

There are currently 358 schools receiving security patrols funded through the School

Security Program.

An additional \$3.45 million was allocated in the 2009–10 financial year for security perimeter fencing to 10 Extreme/High risk schools, electronic security upgrades to four schools and a physical security upgrade to Bwgcolman Community School.

This Government's increased focus on crime prevention in schools has seen the costs for resource replacement due to vandalism and break & enters reduced from \$581,000 in 2008-09 down to \$410,000 in 2009-10. Insurance claims through the Resource Replacement Scheme relating to vandalism and break & enters reduced from 493 in 2008-09 down to 412 in 2009-10.