

Question on Notice
No. 606
Asked on 25 March 2010

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what the Bligh Government is doing to support children with disabilities in our schools?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question. Queensland state schools are committed to providing inclusive educational opportunities for all students, including students with disabilities.

Ensuring all students have access to, participate in and gain positive educational outcomes is achieved through a range of curriculum options delivered across a variety of settings.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) supports targeted students with disabilities through the Education Adjustment Program (EAP).

EAP is a process for identifying and responding to the educational needs of students with disabilities in the areas of:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Speech-Language Impairment
- Vision Impairment.

Queensland State schools offer an array of special education programs and services that support students with disabilities identified through EAP, including:

- access to primary and secondary (Prep to Year 12) special education programs or services that are site-based or provided through outreach support by a visiting specialist
- enrolment in special schools that provide highly specialised and individualised programs for students with intellectual impairment or multiple disabilities with significant educational support needs, and
- early childhood development programs and services (birth to prior-to-Prep) that are site-based or provided through outreach support by a visiting specialist.

Specialist staff available to support students identified through EAP include:

- specialist teachers
- advisory visiting teachers (AVT)
- therapists
- teacher aides
- DET funded nurses.

These additional resources enable classroom and specialist staff to deliver high quality educational programs that meet the individual needs of students with disabilities identified through EAP.

DET also provides advisory visiting teacher services to non-state school students identified through EAP in the disability areas of hearing impairment, physical impairment and vision impairment.

Students who do not access support through EAP, but who have a disability as defined by the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, are supported through the full array of student support services allocated to regions and schools. These resources include:

- guidance officer support
- speech-language therapy support
- behaviour support
- support teachers literacy and numeracy (STLaN)
- teacher aides
- youth support coordinators
- chaplains
- school based youth health nurses
- other support available at school level, as determined by the school.