

Question on Notice
No. 1048
Asked on 16 June 2011

Ms Johnstone asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) —

QUESTION:

Following the announcement that year 7 will be moving to the high school setting in 2015, will the Minister advise the House on what support will be provided to small primary schools, in particular in the Townsville Electorate, to ensure a smooth transition of the Flying Start initiative?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

The Department of Education and Training is committed to extensive consultation and timely communication of decisions, so that school communities and staff are fully aware of changes that may occur.

Primary schools will remain vital as they give students the foundation for learning, and help them make a seamless transition to secondary. They will return to teaching seven years of primary schools (Prep-Year 6), as they did prior to the introduction of the Prep Year in 2007.

The Government will provide stability for all state primary schools through the Year 7 transition to secondary school, with changes to be managed at the local and regional level.

As part of the transition, the Department has commenced a detailed workforce planning process which focuses on the workforce at individual schools, as school contexts will vary according to enrolment patterns, current teacher aide hours and administrative officer allocations.

Classified positions in primary schools will be held for up to three years from 2015. Primary school teachers will also be offered the opportunity to upgrade their skills to become a specialist secondary school teacher. 500 scholarships will be offered by the Government to assist with this.

In addition, the Department will conduct a general review of the school resource allocation model and a review of the educational needs of geographically isolated families and the services available to them.

The Department will work with all schools, including those within the Townsville electorate, in the lead-up to the implementation to ensure a smooth transition.

More information about the move of Year 7 can be found online at www.qld.gov.au/flyingstart.

This Bligh Government is committed to and focussed on the ongoing improvement of the Queensland education system. This is the next step in a 10-year journey of education reform.