

Question on Notice

No. 286

Asked on 22 March 2011

Mr Watt asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how kindergartens in the Everton Electorate will benefit from the Bligh Government's program to solar power Queensland kindergartens?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and his interest in the Bligh Government's Solar Kindergarten Installation Program.

The Bligh Government is doing the "bright thing" and is installing solar power in up to 400 Queensland kindergartens across the State under the Solar Kindergarten Installation Program.

A total of 166 community kindergartens will be retro-fitted with solar power units in 2011. In addition, each of the new kindergarten services being rolled out under the Bligh Government's universal access to kindergarten program will also have panels installed as they are constructed up to 240 new services will be built under this program.

Three existing kindergartens from the Everton electorate will receive solar panels:

- Eatons Hill Community Kindergarten
- Everton Park Kindergarten
- C&K Arana Hills Community Kindergarten

Each of these kindergartens will be installed with 1.5kW solar panels. Collectively, these kindergarten solar installations will generate enough energy to power 125 Queensland homes and save 877 tonnes of carbon emissions every year, equivalent to taking almost 200 cars off the road.

Kindergartens play an important role in a child's development and the solar program will make services more sustainable over time, both financially and environmentally.

As well as reducing the amount of greenhouse gases produced by each kindergarten, the solar panels will help reduce the service's annual electricity bills by up to \$400 at each facility.

The solar kindergarten installation package will also allow the community to participate in solar programs, create green jobs and encourage private investment in solar technologies.

This news will be welcomed by parents, kindergarten operators and the local community.

This program is run in partnership between the Department of Education and Training, and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI).