

Question on Notice

No. 631

Asked on 10 May 2011

Mr Knuth asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr C R Dick) —

QUESTION:

With reference to specialist advisory teachers who are based in regional schools in far north Queensland and who provide invaluable support to parents of children with autism, language and speech difficulties and intellectual impairment, and as these teachers offer counselling and skill enhancement and resources from the disability sector and are a vital point of reference for parents seeking help to enhance their every day lives through educating their children – Will the Minister advise if Education Queensland intends to withdraw the services of specialist advisory teachers from regional rural Queensland, particularly in the Dalrymple Electorate in 2012.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I can reassure the Member that the Department of Education and Training (DET) has no intention of withdrawing the services of specialist advisory teachers from regional and rural Queensland.

Advisory Teachers work at the whole-of-school and classroom levels. They deliver professional development for school staff, as well as working with individual teachers to develop understanding, planning and skills for working with special needs students from birth to 18 years of age.

The Dalrymple Electorate is spread across three Department of Education and Training regions.

In the North Queensland (NQ) Region, there are Regional Advisory Teachers for Autism, Intellectual Impairment and Speech Language Impairment based in Townsville. These Advisory Teachers travel across the entire North Queensland Region, and are one part of an array of services for the Region's students with disabilities. Specialist staff available includes specialist teachers, advisory teachers, therapists, teacher aides and DET funded nurses. In addition, schools also have access to behaviour support staff, guidance officers, support teachers literacy and numeracy, youth support coordinators, chaplains and school based youth health nurses.

In the Far North Queensland (FNQ) Region, there are specialist Advisory Teachers for Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Impairment and Speech Language Impairment.

The Central Queensland Region, which also covers part of the Dalrymple electorate, also has Advisory Visiting Teachers for Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Impairment and Speech Language Impairment.

These specialist positions provide vital services to schools in regional areas for students with special needs and the government will continue to provide funding support for the Department to deliver these services.