

Question on Notice
No. 931
Asked on 14 June 2011

Dr Flegg asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) —

QUESTION:

With reference to acting principals in schools—

How many schools currently have principals that are not permanent appointments and what is the average length of time of these non-permanent appointments (reported in table format and separated by region, for the last 3 years)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

Principals in Queensland's 1,237 state schools play a vital role in ensuring quality teaching and learning outcomes, and facilitating strong school links with the local community. However, acting principals are necessary when the appointed principal takes approved leave or is undertaking other temporary activities.

Principals undertaking temporary placements in other school locations provides them with the opportunity to enhance their school leadership skills and provide professional development experiences that assist further promotion.

Vacancies can be filled through relocation of a permanent officer or through an open merit selection process. The filling of positions through an advertised recruitment process may not necessarily result in a temporary incumbent being appointed to the permanent role.

The Department of Education and Training's recruitment and selection processes include a number of strategies to maximise principal continuity.

Applicants can apply every 12 months for a higher classification level. A pool of suitable applicants is recommended through the first phase of the recruitment process, with those applicants being considered for vacancies that occur in the following 12 months.

This arrangement provides the flexibility of negotiating the commencement date of the successful applicant for the start of a school term or semester. The ability to appoint recommended applicants to vacancies across the following 12-month period minimises the length of time a school has an acting principal in a permanent vacant role.

The number of schools with non-permanent principals and the average length of service (in months) of non-permanent principals for the last three years for each region are shown below.

In the Central Queensland region, the number of schools with non-permanent principals was 59 in 2009, 66 in 2010 and 63 in 2011.

The average length of the appointment was 6.3 months in 2009, 5.0 months in 2010 and 5.7 months in 2011.

In the Darling Downs South West region, the number of schools with non-permanent principals was 41 in 2009, 68 in 2010 and 71 in 2011.

The average length of appointment was 7.0 months in 2009, 5.9 months in 2010 and 6.2 months in 2011.

In the Far North Queensland region, the number of schools with non-permanent principals was 44 in 2009, 42 in 2010 and 50 in 2011.

The average length of appointment was 6.4 months in 2009, 5.7 months in 2010 and 7.2 months in 2011.

In the Metropolitan region, the number of schools with non-permanent principals was 67 in 2009, 95 in 2010 and 90 in 2011.

The average length of appointment was 6.8 months in 2009, 6.6 months in 2010 and 5.7 months in 2011.

In the North Coast region, the number of schools with non-permanent principals was 57 in 2009, 72 in 2010 and 68 in 2011.

The average length of appointment was 6.8 months in 2009, 6.4 months in 2010 and 8.6 months in 2011.

In the North Queensland region, the number of schools with non-permanent principals was 27 in 2009, 34 in 2010 and 37 in 2011.

The average length of appointment was 4.5 months in 2009, 5.8 months in 2010 and 8.4 in 2011.

In the South East region, the number of schools with non-permanent principals was 48 in 2009, 54 in 2010 and 72 in 2011.

The average length of appointment was 6.6 months in 2009, 7.6 months in 2010 and 9.3 months in 2011.

As at 15 June 2011 and equivalent dates in 2009 and 2010.

The numbers of non-permanent principals in the above table include those appointed on contract under the National Partnerships Agreements with the Commonwealth. In June 2011, there were 76 National Partnership schools with a principal on a contract arrangement.