

Question on Notice

No. 475

Asked on 7 June 2013

Ms Palaszczuk asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (MR LANGBROEK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Education, Training and Employment, which reveals for the 2012-13, the underspend in early childhood education was approximately \$36m and that for 2013-14, funding to early childhood education has decreased by \$10.7m—

Will the Minister provide details outlining where the cuts to early childhood education have been made, including programs and/or staff positions that have been reduced or cut?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

I have been advised by my Department that the estimated actual state contribution to the Early Childhood Education and Care service area for the 2012-13 financial year is \$36m lower than the original 2012-13 budget estimate. This is largely a result of re-phasing of planned expenditure associated with the Universal Access to Kindergarten non-government capital grant initiatives, lower levels of depreciation and other capital related expenses.

The decrease of \$10.7m from the 2012-13 original budget to the 2013-14 budget is largely the result of higher levels of deferred expenditure into 2012-13 than into 2013-14, completion of 24 non-state school kindy construction projects in 2012-13, as well as lower levels of depreciation and capital works expense.

I can confirm that there have been no significant cuts to funding programs to approved services. As part of an annual review of funding, small programs such as the Triple P parenting program ceased in 2012-13 which included one project position.