

Question on Notice

No. 244

Asked on 1 April 2014

MS BARTON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr JARROD BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the 2014 Buy Smart Competition will benefit the students of the Broadwater Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Broadwater for her question.

All school-aged children in years four to 12 throughout Queensland, including students of the Broadwater Electorate, will benefit from the Buy Smart Competition (the Competition).

With technology such as smartphones enabling students to enter the marketplace at younger and younger ages, the aim of the Competition is to develop young Queenslanders into confident and competent marketplace decision-makers. The Competition does this by having students choose and research a consumer topic and then create a novel way to share their newfound knowledge with their peers.

I had the pleasure of launching the 14th Annual Competition at the Meridan State College in Caloundra, on Friday 14 February 2014. At the launch, I had the opportunity to speak to over 150 school students about the Competition and their consumer rights.

Entries close Friday 12 September 2014 and the winners will be announced at a ceremony at Parliament House, at the end of October 2014.

Competition winners will be awarded cash prizes across three categories: years 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. In total, there is nearly \$11,500 in prize money available to be shared between winning students and their schools.

The launch of the Competition was the highlight of the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) Back to School campaign, which involved OFT officers speaking with over 3,800 school students throughout the State, in February this year.

I would encourage all my Parliamentary colleagues to promote the Competition within their electorates. To assist with the promotion of the Competition, OFT officers are able to provide information and activities to school teachers, which are mapped to the Queensland school curriculum so they can be conducted in class. OFT officers are also available to visit schools to conduct free presentations to students.

Should any of my Parliamentary colleagues have any questions or have a particular school you would like OFT officers to visit, please call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit their website at: www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au.