

Question on Notice

No. 451

Asked on 3 June 2014

MR KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT (MR LANGBROEK) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide enrolment numbers for School of the Air in Queensland over the past five years and provide details of strategies to deal with any significant declines due to the rural crisis and the negative impact of the national curriculum?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

My Department has seven schools of distance education, including Mount Isa School of the Air. As shown in the table below, there has been growth in enrolment across the schools of distance education as a whole over the past five years.

Sum of FT Enrolments	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Brisbane School of Distance Education	1114	1168	1240	1138	1342
Cairns School of Distance Education	242	241	243	266	292
Capricornia (Emerald Campus) School of Distance Education	245	220	196	218	258
Charleville School of Distance Education	195	179	158	146	146
Charters Towers School of Distance Education	244	262	293	357	382
Longreach School of Distance Education	161	165	170	176	157
Mount Isa School of the Air	179	198	204	207	172
Grand Total	2380	2433	2504	2508	2749

With reference to Mount Isa School of the Air specifically, I have been advised by my Department that the full-time enrolment numbers have declined slightly since 2013; however, there is not a significant decline in comparison with the 2011 enrolments.

Enrolments in all schools will fluctuate over time due to a range of factors including the number of school aged people in the population.

With regard to the Australian Curriculum, all schools of distance education have been leading facilitators of program development and implementation across Queensland. The Principal of Mount Isa School of the Air, as with all principals of schools of distance education, continues to work through the impact of a changing curriculum with teachers, parents and home tutors.

To support schools to implement the Australian Curriculum, my Department is continuing to develop the Curriculum into the Classroom materials for all schools, including schools of distance education. These materials include a detailed set of resources specifically developed for students, parents and home tutors of schools of distance education.

Additional information sessions around student learning and support materials for parents and home tutors have also occurred. Whether it is at a school camp or a home visit, teachers take every opportunity to work with parents and home tutors to further develop the appreciation of their part in the successful implementation of the Australian Curriculum.