

Question on Notice
No. 593
Asked on 7 August 2014

Mr Pucci asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

Given from 2015, year 7 students will become the first year of high school, what steps are being taken to ensure that this transition proceeds smoothly in my electorate of Logan?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

One of the most significant changes to our school communities in Queensland will occur in 2015 when Year 7 is established as the first year of high school across the State.

Since 2012, my Department has been piloting Year 7 in Junior Secondary within 20 state schools across Queensland. The feedback from these pilot school staff, students and parents, is informing the statewide approach for the move of Year 7 in 2015 with pilot experiences being shared across state and non-state sectors.

Approximately \$150 million in capital funding was provided in the 2013–14 financial year to support the introduction of Year 7 into pilot and non-pilot secondary schools.

The transition is being supported by a capital investment of \$328.2 million in state secondary schools over four years from July 2011, with an additional \$309 million in recurrent funding, including \$110 million for capital assistance to non-state schools.

\$93.8 million of the capital funding is forecast to be expended in the 2014–15 financial year. An additional, \$13.7 million has been provided for the 2014–15 financial year for Information Technology (IT) devices for Year 7 students and additional IT infrastructure and equipment.

In total, 288 schools are receiving infrastructure support with over 600 new classrooms and 1,100 refurbished classrooms provided across Queensland.

My Department has given careful consideration to the implications for staff in Queensland state schools as a result of Year 7 moving to high school in 2015. In the 2014–15 financial year, up to \$24 million has been allocated for the additional and transitional staffing effects of moving Year 7 into secondary.

A transition strategy will enable my Department to provide the three state high schools in the Logan Electorate with access to funding for any early allocations of additional deputy principal or head of department positions they may be entitled to based on their Year 7 enrolments.

As part of the strategy, high schools will also receive additional funding in Semester 2, 2014, to support the administration team with the Year 7 student enrolment processes and benefit from more timely administrative resources in 2015.

There are also seven primary schools in the Logan Electorate, which my Department is continuing to monitor to ensure that staff are not adversely affected by the move of Year 7 students to secondary schools.

A transition phase of up to three years commencing in 2015, will also apply to ensure that primary schools' deputy principals and heads of curriculum are not unnecessarily impacted by the transition of Year 7. To support the transition, state school teachers and school leaders are being offered an extensive program of professional development focused on developing Junior Secondary knowledge and capabilities.

The recruitment of teachers for Junior Secondary in 2015 is already underway and existing primary teachers in the Logan Electorate have been offered the opportunity to transition to Junior Secondary and undertake a range of professional development opportunities.

\$1.533 million has been invested across three schools in the Logan Electorate to accommodate Year 7 in high school from next year.

Browns Plains State High School has received 11 refurbished classrooms and a flexible learning area through a new modular building. Flagstone State Community College has received a new two classroom modular building, and Park Ridge State High School has received nine classroom refurbishments and a flexible learning area through refurbishment.