

Question on Notice
No. 594
Asked on 7 August 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline to the House any initiatives that were budgeted in the 2014 Queensland budget that will assist in improving educational outcomes for students in schools throughout the Lytton Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

This Government has undertaken numerous initiatives to support improved educational outcomes for all Queensland state school students, including students in schools throughout the Lytton electorate. Some of the key initiatives include:

- *Great Results Guarantee*
 - The *Great Results Guarantee* is an exciting initiative for Queensland state schooling as it enables schools to make key resourcing decisions and encourages them and their communities to engage around how the funding should be spent to achieve the best results for their students, with a focus on literacy and numeracy.
 - I am advised in 2014 all nine state schools within the Lytton Electorate will share \$1.73 million of the additional \$131 million in *Great Results Guarantee* funding.
- *Great Teachers = Great Results*
 - The Government is investing up to \$66.7 million in 2014-15 to implement *Great teachers = Great results* with a focus on education reforms in two critical areas:
 - Professional excellence in teaching: elevating teaching and leadership standards across the board; and
 - Boosting school autonomy: empowering and enabling school leaders and teachers to drive outcomes for students, including stronger discipline.
- *Independent Public Schools*
 - The introduction of Independent Public Schools (IPS) is a key commitment of the Queensland Government aimed at improving student outcomes.
 - Darling Point Special School was one of the original 26 IPS commencing in 2013.
 - The Government is investing \$6 million in 2014-15 in the IPS initiative to increase autonomy in decision making, cut red tape and remove layers of management to improve outcomes for students.
 - All state schools, including those in the Lytton Electorate, have been given the opportunity to apply to become an IPS in 2015 via an Expression of Interest process which commenced on 17 July 2014 and closes on 5 September 2014.

- *Additional Prep teacher aide hours*
 - The Government is committed to providing state school children with the highest quality teaching and learning in their early years, throughout their education and training and into the work force.
 - Teacher aides play an important role in Prep classrooms, providing much-needed attention and support to help children develop the basic skills they need for learning and interacting with others at school.
 - The Department is continuing the third tranche of the four year program to roll out the equivalent of a full-time teacher aide to an additional 150 prep classes each year in areas of greatest need to provide up to 9000 extra teacher aide hours per week by 2015-16.
 - In 2014, schools in the Lytton electorate received an extra 77.4 teacher aide hours per week.
- *Literacy and numeracy - getting the basics right*
 - This Government has committed up to \$26 million over four years to give principals of both state and non-state schools more choice to select tailored literacy and numeracy programs that are matched to the needs of their students.
 - The funding supports schools to enhance the literacy and numeracy program for students in Prep to Year 2 and to provide flexibility to design and deliver intervention targeted to the specific needs of their students.
 - In 2013-14, \$15,391 was provided to schools within the Lytton electorate as part of the *Literacy and numeracy – getting the basics right funding*.
- *Strengthening Queensland Families – Protecting Our Children*
 - The Government has allocated \$1 million to state and non-state schools to develop school education programs that arm children with the knowledge to protect themselves and to report suspected sexual assault and child abuse.
 - The funding has supported the development and alignment of the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* with the DRAFT Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education (Version 6.0). The Prep – Year 9 Curriculum aims to support schools and teachers in the promotion of safety for students, and includes lessons about personal safety and awareness, including cybersafety and telephone safety.
- *Supporting Queenslanders with a Disability (Speech Pathologists) initiative*
 - The Government has continued to invest \$3.2 million of \$10.9 million over four years to support speech pathology services in Queensland schools.
 - Speech-language therapy services support students' educational outcomes by focusing on the essential foundation areas of language, speech, voice, fluency and oro-motor functioning, where these impact on learning, particularly for those students with speech, language and communication needs.
 - As a result of the Government investment an additional 30 speech-language pathologists have been deployed across Queensland state schools increasing the services provided to students with speech, language and communication needs.
 - There are a total of 183.9 full time equivalent speech-language therapy positions working in Queensland state schools.