

Question on Notice

No. 99

Asked on 4 March 2014

Mr Wellington asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (MR LANGBROEK) –

QUESTION:

With reference to significant changes to Queensland primary school student numbers because of the move of year 7 students to high school—

How will the small primary schools now meet the costs of employing the necessary school groundsmen to maintain the school grounds?

ANSWER:

I thank Mr Wellington for his question. I have been advised by my Department that:

It is important to note that the transition of Year 7 students to high school in itself may not trigger a change to a small school's ability to employ a schools officer to maintain the school grounds; however, this is one of the many aspects of school management that are being carefully monitored by my Department in the lead up to the move in 2015.

The allocation of resources to maintain school grounds is based on a number of factors. While these include student enrolments, other factors are also considered including the school's physical size and matters relating to its location such as the cost of accessing goods and services should the school be located in a rural or remote area. Together these factors contribute to the resource allocation for each school.

For larger schools this may result in provision of a dedicated departmental grounds officer, while others receive a grounds care allowance that may be used flexibly by the Principal to manage school grounds and facilities.

Historically, changes in enrolments are common and demographic movements can often lead to enrolment fluctuations in small schools.

The Department has in place a policy to support all schools to manage changes to resource allocation resulting from fluctuations in school enrolments. Those schools impacted by the movement of Year 7 into secondary school settings will receive the same careful consideration and support given to all schools should student enrolments impact on their resource allocation.