

Question on Notice

No. 695

Asked on 17 July 2015

MR PEGG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON MS JONES) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise as to how the government's commitment to lowering class sizes will benefit schools in the Stretton Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The provision of high-quality education is central to the Palaszczuk Government's agenda. That's why the Palaszczuk Government's first budget contains \$152 million for the *Extra Teachers* initiative.

The *Extra Teachers* initiative will see 875 additional teachers delivered to classrooms across the 2016, 2017 and 2018 school years. Teachers employed as a result of this initiative will be over and above increases in teacher numbers that flow from a growth in enrolment numbers.

The Stretton electorate will see 10 more teacher FTE's working in schools in the electorate as a result of this Palaszczuk Government budget initiative.

As well as placing downward pressure on primary school class size, the *Extra Teachers* initiative will also provide Queensland state schools with access to additional staffing allocations to:

- employ more specialist teachers in high schools in areas of local need/priority;
- increase curriculum coordination time in primary and special schools to provide these schools with the capacity to increase the time available to primary and special education teachers to support planning, assessment and collaboration; and
- provide more Deputy Principal support to Primary and Special schools and 31 FTE additional support for teaching principals

In stark contrast, the former LNP Government presided over an increase in class sizes. Between the Newman Governments's election in 2012 and January 2015, the percentage of classes that were oversized increased from 6.7 percent to 11.3 percent.

In addition, the former LNP Government's decision to remove the rounding benefit for school teacher allocations resulted in the stripping of more than 180 teachers from primary schools which will be restored by the Palaszczuk Government in 2016.