

Question on Notice

No. 883

Asked on 17 September 2015

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the state schools in my electorate of Lytton have benefited under the Palaszczuk Government?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring every child in Lytton has access to a quality education so they can build the skills, knowledge and confidence to seize the opportunities of the future.

In this year's State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government delivered a record \$9 billion in education.

We are delivering more teachers, boosting student support and improving access for students with disability. Schools, including those in the Lytton electorate, will share in this Government's investment in education through:

- \$152 million over three years from 2016–18 to employ 875 extra teachers above those required to meet enrolment growth, with 9.96 additional full-time equivalent teacher positions allocated across the nine state primary, secondary and special schools in Lytton;
- \$8.9 million over three years for 45 additional guidance officer positions (or equivalent) to ensure that every Queensland state school with 500 or more secondary students has access to a full-time secondary guidance officer or equivalent, 0.55 additional full-time equivalent positions are allocated for state schools with secondary students in Lytton;
- \$183 million of Australian Government Students First funding is being provided directly to Queensland state schools in 2015, with \$1.7 million to Lytton schools. The \$480 million of funding available in the remaining two years of this initiative will continue to be provided directly and in full to state schools as part of the Palaszczuk Government's Investing 4 Success program, with schools in Lytton to receive at least \$3.4 million over 2016 and 2017; and
- \$255,000 for Darling Point Special School which was successful in its application under the Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) to support innovative teacher practices through research in mathematics for secondary students with disabilities.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring students have access to quality education facilities. In 2015–16 our record investment in education includes:

- \$456 million in the capital works program in 2015–16 to build and upgrade state schools and early childhood education and care facilities;
- \$180 million in state school maintenance in 2015–16, including funding to progressively upgrade the fire protection systems in state schools; and

- \$41.2 million in capital grant funding for non-state schools in 2015–16 as part of a three-year commitment totalling \$123.6 million.

The current budget also specifically benefits the Lytton electorate through a capital works allocation of \$30,000 to Lota State School under the Smart Schools Subsidy Scheme. Wondall Heights State School will benefit from maintenance funding under the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program to repair and enhance sports courts at an estimated cost of \$138,000, while Wynnum State High School will receive roof repairs under the Targeted Maintenance program estimated at \$400,000.

I am proud of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to education in Lytton and the rest of Queensland however, we face significant challenges in the future.

Under the current Student First funding arrangement with the Australian Government, Queensland has been receiving funding that has been indexed by approximately 4.7% pa plus enrolment growth. The Australian Government announced in the 2014–15 Federal Budget that funding for education from 2017–18 will be budgeted at a lower rate of growth which will be based on CPI projected at 2.5% per annum plus enrolment growth.

Modelling prepared by the Department indicated that this decrease in school funding from the Australian Government would translate to a reduction in funding of approximately \$1.664 billion for Queensland state schools for the period 2017–18 to 2024–25.

Queensland students deserve better and I am continuing to lobby the Australian Government for a better deal for our state.