

Question on Notice

No. 156

Asked on 16 February 2017

MS T DAVIS ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON K JONES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail (a) how many children were recorded absent from school in 2015 and 2016 for more than five or ten days (reported separately) where the absence was either unexplained or unauthorised and (b) how many QPS referral letters were sent for prosecution under section 176(1) of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education publishes absences — including unexplained and unauthorised absences — online at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/statistics/student-attendance.html.

Parents have a legal responsibility to send their child to school on every school day. According to OneSchool data, under section 179 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, there were 44 referrals to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for proceedings against a parent for failing to ensure their child's attendance at school in 2016.

Referrals to the QPS only progress after substantial effort has been made to engage with the parents regarding their child's attendance.