

Question on Notice

No. 21

Asked on 14 February 2017

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

QUESTION:

With reference to air-conditioning in Queensland schools—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many classrooms across Queensland do not have air-conditioning installed, (b) how many relocatable school buildings do not have air-conditioning (reported by region) and (c) what is the overall budget for air-conditioning installation for Queensland schools?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education and Training incorporates passive cooling measures in school classroom design to reduce the temperature inside classrooms. These measures include building orientation, shade from direct sunlight, good ventilation and ceiling fans.

I am advised the Department does not collect data centrally on the cooling measures in individual schools' classrooms. However, air-conditioning has been installed and is incorporated into newly constructed facilities in the northern and western areas of Queensland, identified as the Cooler Schools zone and the Western Cooling zone.

Many schools outside the Cooler Schools zone have elected to air-condition some or all classroom spaces through local funding initiatives. This is a matter for prioritisation at the school level. The Department also considers on a case-by-case basis specific issues such as medical conditions.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested significantly in the replacement of air-conditioning in schools in the Cooler Schools zone and the Western Cooling zone, with \$12 million allocated in 2016–17.