

## Question on Notice

No. 62

Asked on 15 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 professional development for teachers—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many beginning teachers were not matched with a mentor in 2015 and 2016 (reported by year and by each education region), (b) how many teachers signed on to be mentors through the MBT program in 2015 and 2016 (reported by year and by each education region) and (c) what was the budget for the MBT program in 2015-16 and 2016-17?

ANSWER:

Beginning teachers benefit greatly from engaging with an experienced educator in a structured way on a regular basis. Supporting beginning teachers during the first year of their teaching career is critical to their success. The Mentoring Beginning Teachers (MBT) program provides schools with funding to support mentoring relationships between mentors and beginning teachers.

The MBT program focuses on the professional development and growth of beginning teachers with an aim to improve teacher quality, reduce attrition of beginning teachers in the first five years, improve teaching practice and drive improvements in student outcomes. The program supports beginning teachers during the first year of their teaching career with around 3000 mentors accredited by the end of 2016. The budget allocated for the program over the 2015–16 and 2016–17 financial years totalled some \$36 million to training mentors and support beginning teachers.

Since the commencement of the program, eight in 10 beginning teachers have been matched with a mentor. Where a match has not been possible, principals offer support for beginning teachers through mentoring relationships with deputy principals, heads of curriculum, heads of department or other teachers.

Mentors are provided the opportunity to participate in a fully funded two-day accredited training workshop, developed by the Queensland University of Technology. A breakdown of mentors trained to date by Department of Education and Training region follows:

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Mentors trained Aug 2014 to Dec 2015</b>	<b>Mentors trained 2016</b>
Central Queensland	210	120
Darling Downs South West	207	105
Far North Queensland	151	79
Metropolitan	501	221
North Coast	273	130
North Queensland	167	90
South East	482	183