

Question on Notice

No. 1273

Asked on 19 September 2018

MR L MILLAR ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise why Queensland Education's Living Away From Home Allowance is listed as a Drought Relief Program in the terms of reference for the Queensland Government's Drought Program Review and is therefore subject to that review and the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has tasked the Drought Program Review Independent Panel, consisting of Ms Ruth Wade and Mr Charles Burke, with identifying potential improvements for future drought support in Queensland, including alignment with the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform.

In the 2016-17 Palaszczuk Government Budget, the \$36 million Rural Assistance Package was announced in response to the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce Chairman's report and recommendations.

As part of the Rural Assistance Package, the former Department of Education and Training was allocated an additional \$3,656,000 for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years. This was disbursed over the 2016, 2017 and 2018 calendar years to support rural and remote Queensland students affected by drought, in receipt of the Living Away From Home Allowance Scheme (LAFHAS).

The LAFHAS Drought Supplement provided as part of the Rural Assistance Package is to be considered as part of the Drought Program Review as the assistance was specifically for drought effected families.