

Question on Notice

No. 1380

Asked on 17 October 2018

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) how many schools in Queensland currently do not have adequate classroom air-conditioning, (b) if the government has any intention of funding a program to install air-conditioning in all Queensland schools not currently air-conditioned, (c) if the government has estimated the cost of installing air-conditioning in all Queensland schools not currently air-conditioned, and if so, what that cost is and (d) the average per classroom cost of installing air-conditioning under any current or previous government funding programs?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has a policy of air conditioning schools in the hottest and most humid parts of Queensland. These areas are known as the Cooler Schools Zones.

The provision of air conditioning outside the cooler schools zones is a decision for each individual school community. Many schools have installed air conditioning in classrooms using minor works allocations and Parents and Citizens' Association funding. Schools are not required to report centrally on the installation of air conditioning.

The department responds on a case-by-case basis to specific issues such as medical conditions, mitigation for traffic noise and environments where acoustic requirements require the installation of air conditioning.

It is estimated that it would cost over \$2 billion to air condition all remaining schools/classrooms across the state, excluding operating expenses and other associated costs.

The cost for air conditioning a classroom varies according to a range of factors, including: location of the school; climatic conditions; building construction type; building orientation; electrical upgrades; insulation; and room volume.

Under the Cooler Schools Program, which was completed in June 2007, more than \$131.6 million was invested to air condition more than 3500 classrooms.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to maintaining and replacing air conditioning systems installed in the Cooler Schools Zone.