

Question on Notice

No. 1726

Asked on 15 November 2018

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Macleay Island State School—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the Minister has considered changing the remote classification of the school and (b) the impact that classification has on staffing and teachers' salaries at the school?

ANSWER:

Macleay Island State School is classified as a Transfer Rating 2 school, which recognises the relative remoteness of the location in comparison to mainland state schools. In the Redlands area, mainland state schools are Transfer Rating 1.

A change to the Transfer Rating of Macleay Island State School is not currently under consideration. However, a review of rural and remote incentives for teachers is underway and is expected to be reported on in 2019.

Teachers working in remote locations may be entitled to an additional locality allowance under the Public Service Commission Locality Allowances (Directive 16/18) to compensate for additional costs associated with working in specified locations. The rate is determined by the location and whether the teacher has a spouse. The full rate for teachers at Macleay Island State School is \$42.20 per fortnight.

Teachers at Macleay Island State School who do not live on the island are also compensated for the cost of ferry and island taxi travel.

Given the higher transfer rating of Macleay Island, teachers accumulate transfer points at a faster rate than their Redlands mainland teaching colleagues, which provides additional benefits in the teacher transfer system.