

## Question on Notice

No. 858

Asked on 15 June 2018

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

QUESTION:

Will the minister advise (a) how many students were reported absent from school for more than five consecutive school days that were unexplained or unauthorised in 2016-17 and 2017-18 (reported separately by education region) and (b) how many parents of students in (a) were subsequently charged with a related offence?

ANSWER:

The table below provides a count of students who were reported absent from school for more than five consecutive school days, with absences that were unexplained or unauthorised. Absences are based on daily data which is subject to change. An unexplained absence is where no reason has been given for the student absence. An unauthorised absence is where the explanation provided is considered by the principal to not be reasonable.

Education Region	2016-17	2017-18**
Central Queensland	1845	2006
Darling Downs South West	1812	1913
Far North Queensland	3999	3971
Metropolitan	3328	3476
North Coast	3960	4193
North Queensland	2965	2882
South East Queensland	4157	4442
<b>State Total*</b>	<b>21,745</b>	<b>22,503</b>

\*Students may attend more than one school during the year. As a result, some students may be reported as having periods of absence in more than one region. Accordingly, the sum of the regions may not match the total.

\*\*Data for 2017-18 is for the period 1 July 2017 to 20 June 2018.

Schools work closely with families to improve a child's attendance. All efforts are made to connect with parents, understand the reasons for a child's absence, and offer support which may involve the school's guidance officer. The Department of Education's *Managing student absences and enforcing enrolment and attendance in state schools* procedure outlines the process to monitor and manage student absences. The procedure is available online at [www.ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Managing-Student-Absences-and-Enforcing-Enrolment-and-Attendance-at-State-Schools.aspx](http://www.ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Managing-Student-Absences-and-Enforcing-Enrolment-and-Attendance-at-State-Schools.aspx).

As prosecutions for failing to ensure a child's attendance at school fall within the portfolio responsibility of the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, the Member's question about charges should be directed to Minister Ryan.