

Question on Notice

No. 886

Asked on 15 June 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the government's one percent reprioritisation—

Will the Minister advise, in relation to the Minister's department, which grants, subsidies, supplies and services will be reduced in 2018-19 (listed separately by item)?

ANSWER:

The Government's 2017 election commitments will build on key policy priorities such as strengthening economic growth, particularly in the regions, providing jobs and building better communities.

The Department of Education has been allocated a record budget for the 2018–19 financial year of \$13.1 billion.

The previous LNP Government introduced efficiency dividends with the aim of cutting expenditure which meant cuts to front-line services. In contrast the reprioritisation program is about redirecting existing funding to deliver our election commitments to restore front-line services and deliver new hospitals, roads, public transport and schools. Delivery of this measure will not be at the cost of public service jobs nor the sale of strategic income earning assets.

As part of ongoing normal business operations and in the development of the 2018–19 Budget, the department has examined its back office costs, identified efficiencies and aligned program schedules to match the forward estimates funding profile, so as to operate within its allocated total budget.

The department is committed to public sector employment security and prioritising front line service delivery.