

Question on Notice

No. 1573

Asked on 16 October 2019

MR M HART ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to air-conditioning in Queensland schools-

Will the Minister advise (a) how many schools in Queensland presently do not have classroom air-conditioning, (b) if the government intends to fund a program to install air-conditioning in all Queensland schools that are not currently air-conditioned, (c) if the government has estimated the install cost of air-conditioning in all Queensland school classrooms not 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 currently air conditions all schools in the hottest and most humid parts of Queensland (Cooler Schools Zone) and has also committed an additional \$100 million over four years for priority state school air conditioning projects to expand the number of air conditioned classrooms outside the Cooler Schools Zone.

In 2019–20, the Palaszczuk Government will invest a total of \$42 million in air conditioning for Queensland state schools.

Many schools outside the Cooler Schools Zone have elected to air condition some, or all, classroom spaces, either through funding provided by the Parents and Citizens' Associations (P&Cs) or by using school funding or other sources.

The Department of Education and the Department of Housing and Public Works are currently undertaking assessments of schools outside the Cooler Schools Zone to ascertain the extent of air conditioning already installed in schools.

Costs to air condition classrooms vary greatly depending on the nature of the classrooms/buildings involved. Variable costs include issues related to asbestos management, heritage, scaffolding, electrical upgrades, building works, drainage, concrete slabs, ventilation, labour costs and the size/type of the units to air condition classroom spaces of varying size and volume.

The Department of Education is committed to improving teaching and learning conditions in Queensland classrooms and is taking a deliberate and considered approach to prioritise its additional \$100 million investment.