

Question on Notice

No. 304

Asked on 26 March 2019

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of Queensland class rooms that do not have air conditioning for the start of the 2019 school year?

ANSWER:

As reported in response to Question on Notice 266, 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.

Schools are not required to report back centrally if they choose to install an air conditioning unit in a classroom.

Under the Cooler Schools Program, which was completed in June 2007, over \$131.6 million was invested to air condition more than 3500 classrooms in over 390 schools. The Department of Education continues to maintain these air conditioning systems and where necessary replaces aged and failed systems with modern air conditioning systems in the Cooler Schools Zones.

Outside of the Cooler Schools Zones, the Department of Education may provide air conditioning on a case-by-case basis in response to specific issues, such as medical conditions, or environments where acoustic requirements require the installation of air conditioning, for example, music practice rooms requiring closed doors and windows.

The choice to fund the installation and running of air conditioners is a matter for prioritisation at the school level. Many schools outside the Cooler Schools Zones have elected to air condition some, or all, classroom spaces either through funding provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association or by using the school's annual minor works allocation.