

Question on Notice
No. 119
Asked on 25 February 2021

DR C ROWAN ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise in what state schools is the RISE program operating and has it been withdrawn from or discontinued in any schools for the 2021 school year?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government aims to ensure that all children and young people remain engaged in education and make a strong transition to further education, training or employment.

The RISE Program previously targeted young males aged 14 to 15 years of age who were not attending school over a six-month period. The community-based program involved social-skilling, mentoring, team-building and adventure-based activities to teach positive habits and good choices.

The RISE Program assisted around 20 young males each year. At the end of each semester students were transitioned back to school, further training or employment. The RISE Program involved students who were referred from Palm-Beach Currumbin State High School (SHS); Miami SHS; Elanora SHS; Pacific Pines SHS; and Helensvale SHS.

Over Semester 2, 2020, as part of its regular review of service delivery, the Department of Education's (DoE) South East Region (SER) determined it would no longer provide the RISE program at a regional level and that regional funding would be allocated to other programs to support disengagement and transitions. However, schools were invited to continue offering the program at an individual school level, but no schools have done so. As a result, the RISE program is no longer in operation in SER.

No young person has been disadvantaged by the RISE program concluding. DoE continues to deliver a range of measures to assist families of students in SER who are at risk of disengaging from their education each year, including those who never attended the RISE program. SER Transition Pathway Officers (TPOs) are frontline in this effort. In SER there will be an expansion of the TPO service in 2021, which will strengthen the regional service delivery approach through the addition of five TPO staff.

There are a number of interventions that are occurring to address the needs of the most complex students, including in-school support teams; the SER complex case management team; Positive Pathways, which is a Complex Case Management panel that supports the most vulnerable students by leveraging expertise across government; increasing focus on trauma-informed practice; and Allied Health on school grounds.