

Question on Notice

No. 710

Asked on 27 May 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Nanango Electorate, which does not have a dedicated Special Education School—

Will the Minister (a) clarify the trigger points (i.e. population, need) for the consideration of the building of a dedicated Special Education School, (b) advise, based on this criteria, does Kingaroy meet the criteria to be considered for a dedicated Special School and (c) if not, is the department considering increasing teaching and teaching aide resources for the school's within the Nanango Electorate with current special education facilities?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education's Inclusive Education Policy commits to ensuring all children can attend their local state school and engage in the curriculum alongside their similar aged peers.

The policy notes that the department offers parents the choice of enrolling their child, where eligibility criteria are met, in highly individualised programs in special schools.

The department determines the need for new special schools on a case-by-case basis with a focus on addressing areas where existing special schools cannot accommodate future growth.

There are currently no plans for a special school to be built in Kingaroy.

However, state primary and secondary schools are provided with a core allocation of teachers and teacher aides for each student enrolled in the school, based on enrolment numbers. Additional teachers and teacher aides are provided to schools for students with disability. The core allocation and the additional students with disability allocations are provided as a pool to schools, enabling principals to determine how to flexibly use resources across the school to meet the needs of all students.

State schools also receive funding through Investing for Success based on school enrolments, with an additional loading for students with disability.

In addition to the resources provided directly to schools, state schools are able to access departmental specialist staff to support students with disability, including Principal Advisors Autism, Principal Advisors Inclusion, AUSLAN Coaches, Speech Language Pathologists, Guidance Officers, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Registered Nurses.