

Question on Notice
No. 299
Asked on 30 March 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the annual amount of WorkCover claims paid to teachers and to other staff for physical injury claims and psychological claims (reported in dollar terms by financial year 2015-16 to 2021-22)?

ANSWER:

The below table provides the annual statutory and common law workers' compensation claims costs for teachers, administration staff and school cleaners, noting that claims costs can be affected by a number of factors including claim numbers and costs of weekly compensation and services provided to the injured worker.

Year	Total
2015–16	\$34,717,432.17
2016–17	\$38,480,712.57
2017–18	\$41,829,228.19
2018–19	\$46,008,203.95
2019–20	\$54,237,096.13
2020–21	\$64,848,379.05
2021–22 YTD	\$41,954,615.66

Note: Data as at 28 February 2022. Dollar figures include employer excess which is the first payment of weekly compensation, which is paid to the injured worker by their employer.

Since 2015, the Department of Education's workforce has increased from 64,766.16 FTEs to 75,205.64 FTEs.

In addition over the last five years, the government has implemented a number of changes to make the Queensland's workers' compensation scheme more accessible for workers with psychological injuries including:

- changing the definition of injury for psychiatric or psychological disorders to remove 'the major' as a qualifier for work's 'significant contribution' to the injury, to align with the same test as a physical injury;
- establishing the workers' psychological support service to provide additional support to workers who have experienced a work-related psychological injury; and
- providing early access to supports such as medical treatment and/or counselling for psychological injury claims up until a decision is made to minimise the severity, duration and recurrence of psychological illness.