

Question on Notice
No. 798
Asked on 17 August 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Student Wellbeing Package—

Will the Minister advise (a) who is responsible for overseeing the psychologists as part of the Student Wellbeing Package and (b) how does the department measure the success of the Student Wellbeing Package?

ANSWER:

A key part of ongoing implementation of the Student Wellbeing Package (the Package) is employing suitable staff to provide professional and clinical supervision to the range of wellbeing professionals employed through the Package.

All psychologists employed through the Package to support students' wellbeing and mental health in schools have access to supervision from a qualified senior psychologist.

A minimum 10% of the total staffing allocations provided through the Package is being used to employ senior psychologists, senior social workers and senior guidance officers. These staff have the experience and professional qualifications required to provide supervision to wellbeing professionals working with students in Queensland state schools.

The Department of Education is also finalising a recruitment process to employ a Senior Clinician – Statewide Wellbeing (HP6), who will provide strategic, professional and clinical leadership for psychology, social work and youth work services provided across the State as part of the Package.

As with all other teaching and non-teaching staff employed by the department, psychologists and other wellbeing professionals employed through the Package also have a line manager in their school or region who is responsible for overseeing their work. In schools, principals are responsible for the day-to-day management of their schools, which includes oversight of the provision of wellbeing and mental health support for students.

In July 2022, following a comprehensive procurement process, the department engaged Deloitte Access Economics to undertake a rigorous evaluation of the Package. Over a two and a half year period, the evaluation will examine the impact of the Package on students and school communities.

The success of the initiative will be assessed through a range of measures including:

- uptake of services;
- impact of service provision on variables related to students' health, wellbeing and mental health; and
- impact of service provision on schools' whole-school approach to supporting students' wellbeing and mental health.