

Question on Notice

No. 974

Asked on 1 September 2022

MR M BOOTHMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to school maintenance funding—

Will the Minister explain why a school that is five years old and only needs limited maintenance receives the same funding as a school that is 20 years old?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring schools are maintained to an appropriate standard and provide a safe and comfortable environment for all students.

In 2022–23, \$329 million (excluding GST) has been allocated towards school maintenance, of which \$71 million (excluding GST) is allocated directly to schools to undertake planned and unplanned maintenance.

The allocation of maintenance funds to Queensland state schools is subject to a number of factors, including a school's gross floor area; age; location; enrolment numbers and utilisation rates; and asset replacement value.

Schools operating within the first 10 years of opening are allocated maintenance funding based on a sliding scale. For example, a school that has been open for five years is allocated 50% of the funding of an equivalent school that has been open for 10 years.

In addition to school maintenance allocation, regions manage funds for emergency work and larger maintenance projects that may not be within a school's capacity to fund. Schools can contact their Regional Infrastructure advisor to discuss particular maintenance needs.

The model for allocating maintenance funds to schools is based on the principles of providing a fair distribution of funds, using reliable data and providing stability over time, enabling schools to plan with confidence. This model was developed in consultation with key stakeholders including school principals and business managers.

The Department of Education is proposing to review the maintenance allocation model in 2022–23 to ensure the distribution of funding meets the needs of Queensland state schools.