

Question on Notice

No. 1098

Asked on 13 September 2023

MR L MILLAR ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what learning support funding has been made available to address deficits in student literacy discovered in the recent NAPLAN tests or whether schools must find that funding out of their current Inclusive Education funding?

ANSWER:

The development of literacy and numeracy, particularly learning to read, is an essential foundation for all students. This has been recognised as a key element of the Department of Education's *Equity and Excellence: realising the potential of every student* education strategy, which includes a strong focus on English and Mathematics as the essential foundations for learning.

The importance of reading is being recognised through updates to the Australian Curriculum (AC). In preparation for implementation in 2025 of AC v9 English, the department is developing a comprehensive suite of reading materials, including online resources for teachers, access to professional development in the teaching of reading, and support for parents.

The new NAPLAN proficiency levels introduced in 2023 provide four levels of proficiency. The NAPLAN 2023 National Report shows around 60% of Queensland students achieved a proficiency level of strong or exceeding in Reading and Numeracy.

Each year, using the results of NAPLAN, additional funding for literacy and numeracy is distributed to state schools based on the numbers of students identified as requiring additional support to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. In 2022–23, \$23.683 million was distributed to schools, and \$23.683 million has been allocated again in 2023–24.

Additionally, more than 1100 specialist learning support staff and 500 specialists, such as speech language pathologists, are allocated to regions and schools to work with students who require support in their learning, an investment of around \$230 million each year.

Every state school also receives Investing for Success funding each year. This funding is to support all state schools to improve learning outcomes for their students, including in literacy and numeracy. In 2023, schools received \$285.069 million, with similar amounts expected to be provided in 2024 and 2025.

To support schools to make reasonable adjustments for students with disability, the department has commenced a two-year transition to a new Students with Disability – Reasonable Adjustments Resourcing Model (the new model). In the 2022–23 State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government announced \$80.6 million to support the transition to the new model. The new model provides additional teachers and teacher aides to schools based on the adjustments they are making, regardless of disability type.