

Question on Notice

No. 1127

Asked on 14 September 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide details of the total cost of vandalism, theft and building/content damage to State Schools (reported separately by region and by year) for 2020-21 to 2022-23?

ANSWER:

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff in Queensland schools is of the highest priority for the Department of Education.

The total cost of claims for vandalism and theft for both building and contents for 2020–21 was \$531,018.18 (excluding GST). The cost for Central Queensland Region (CQR) was \$58,174.03 (excluding GST); Darling Downs South West Region (DDSW) was \$94,762.36 (excluding GST); Far North Queensland Region (FNQ) was \$103,936.36 (excluding GST); Metropolitan Region (MER) was \$75,979.95 (excluding GST); North Coast Region (NCR) was \$79,570.17 (excluding GST); South East Region (SER) was \$89,259.34 (excluding GST); and North Queensland Region (NQR) was \$29,335.97 (excluding GST).

The total cost of claims for vandalism and theft for both building and contents for 2021–22 was \$1,108,947.76 (excluding GST). The cost for CQR was \$39,702.22 (excluding GST); DDSW was \$67,225.81 (excluding GST); FNQ was \$679,065.76 (excluding GST); MER was \$71,431.43 (excluding GST); NCR was \$126,645.86 (excluding GST); SER was \$101,562.20 (excluding GST); and NQR was \$23,314.48 (excluding GST).

The total cost of claims for vandalism and theft for both building and contents for 2022–23 was \$1,023,169.98 (excluding GST). The cost for CQR was \$361,989.16 (excluding GST); DDSW was \$160,138.14 (excluding GST); FNQ was \$66,833.04 (excluding GST); MER was \$92,588.95 (excluding GST); NCR was \$213,867.79 (excluding GST); SER was \$78,843.09 (excluding GST); and NQR was \$48,909.81 (excluding GST).

This data is based on incidents reported to the department's Claims Management unit up until 18 September 2023. The total value of each incident may not be realised until all claims are submitted by schools and fully assessed.

It should be noted that works required to replace vandalised school assets are relative to the vandalism, and not comparative across the State or year-on-year. Generally, costs associated with remediation and resource replacements have seen increases in costs following COVID-19 and building supply shortages.

The overall cost increase from \$531,018.18 in 2020–21 to \$1,108,947.76 in 2021–22 is largely related to an incident at Cairns State High School where vandals turned on the fire hydrant hose inside the school's sports centre. The required remediation works, costing in excess of \$440,878.48, included the replacement of the full court flooring and subfloor and associated mould treatment.