

Question on Notice

No. 1316

Asked on 25 October 2023

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to Out of School Hours Care for school students in Kingaroy—

Will the Minister advise (a) if she is aware of the shortage of OHSC places for local children and (b) if there are any strategies being considered by local schools to help establish OHSC services?

ANSWER:

The Australian Government is responsible for funding Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) through the Child Care Subsidy.

OSHC services are delivered by the school's Parents and Citizens' Association or a commercial provider.

The Early Childhood Regulatory Authority (RA), within the Department of Education, is responsible for the approval and regulation of education and care services in Queensland under the National Quality Framework.

Shortages in vacancies in Kingaroy in early childhood education and care have been raised through local early childhood networks and action groups that include ECEC services, schools and government staff, including local, state and federal government agencies.

Currently, five services offer OSHC in Kingaroy. All have a waiting list for enrolment of school aged children. Goodstart Early Learning Kingaroy will cease to offer OSHC in 2024. The department will work with the local state schools to discuss options for OSHC.

The RA has not received an application for a new Approved Provider or a service approval to provide additional OSHC services in Kingaroy.

Communities with identified gaps in OSHC service delivery have a range of options available, including existing Approved Providers establishing new services utilising local facilities, such as council buildings or school infrastructure where there is capacity to accommodate an Approved Service.