

Question on Notice
No. 1333
Asked on 25 October 2023

MR D JANETZKI ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many occupational violence reports in the MyHR workplace health and safety portal the department has received from employees in the Darling Downs South West region that have resulted in a physical injury/assault?

ANSWER:

The MyHR Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) system is the Department of Education's system for recording health and safety incidents in state schools and departmental workplaces.

The introduction of an 'occupational violence and aggression' selection was introduced in the MyHR WHS system from October 2021 to improve data collection for incidents of this type; therefore, data prior to this date is not available.

Occupational violence and aggression are defined as any action, incident or behaviour that departs from reasonable conduct in which a person is threatened, harmed, injured by another person in the course of, or as a direct result of their work.

Of the 1038 occupational violence incidents reported in the MyHR WHS system, there were 405 departmental employees who reported a physical injury/assault for Darling Downs South West Region between 1 October 2021 and 31 October 2023.

Approximately 94% of these incidents required no more than first aid in response to the incident. Examples of these types of incidents include low impact physical contact such as a child brushing past a teacher and accidentally making contact.

By reporting incidents of occupational violence and aggression in the MyHR WHS system, employees can ensure the department is informed of the incident, can provide support to the employee (and others where required), and take steps to prevent incidents from happening again.

Support to employees who are subject to occupational violence and aggression varies depending on the nature of the incident.

Support can range from counselling/support via the department's employee assistance provider (all employees and their families have access to a free 24/7 counselling service) and local application of basic first aid treatment. Incidents that require a higher level of medical support (e.g. ambulance and/or hospitalisation) are uncommon.