

## Question on Notice

No. 1530

Asked on 28 November 2023

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Education's Regional Youth Engagement Services—

Will the Minister advise (reported separately by region) and reported for Semester 1 and Semester 2, 2023 (a) how many students have been identified as 'at-risk' or disengaged and (b) how many students have successfully re-engaged or 'resumed as per usual'?

ANSWER: [MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)]:

I thank the Member for the question.

On 18 December 2023, I was appointed as Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice and as such, I am now the responsible Minister to answer this Question.

The Queensland Government recognises the critical role that engagement with education plays in each student reaching their potential, and is therefore committed to supporting every young Queenslander to succeed at school and transition to further study or work.

The Department of Education's Regional Youth Engagement Services (RYES) identify and support at-risk and disengaged young people to re-engage with education, training and where relevant, employment.

In 2022, RYES identified, connected with and provided support to 5870 at-risk and disengaged young people. Over the same period, this support led to 2584 of those young people re-engaging with education, training or employment. It is anticipated that the 2023 data for RYES will be available in late January 2024.

The department acknowledges that some students' journey through formal schooling can be complex. The ongoing work of RYES in supplementing the supports delivered by schools every day, ensures young people are supported to succeed at school and transition to further study or work.

To further complement the significant work of the RYES, in December 2023, the Minister announced a \$288 million Youth Engagement Reform package, which will provide further options for schools to support teachers to focus on the very important job of teaching and learning, and keep our students in their classroom learning and achieving for their futures.

The integrated package will combine intervention and prevention initiatives to support students to remain engaged in a structured, supportive learning environment, in a format that meets their needs.

More than \$120 million will be invested to expand the successful Queensland Pathways State Colleges model from six to 12 campuses, including new campuses in Toowoomba and Deception Bay in 2024 followed by Mount Isa, Central Queensland, Logan and Cairns. These facilities play an important role in supporting vulnerable students in Years 10 to 12 to complete their Year 12 education, and create pathways to tertiary education and training.

An additional \$45 million has been earmarked to create 50 new FlexiSpaces in high needs schools, on top of the existing 52 schools which already have one. The new FlexiSpaces will have a dedicated teacher to provide extra support for students who need a break from the classroom, including due to mental health issues or disruptive behaviour.

The Package also includes \$29.1 million for First Nations Engagement Programs targeting First Nations young people.

\$27 million will also be invested in specialised alternative learning programs run by non-government organisations in the priority locations of Cairns, Townsville, Ipswich and Mount Isa, and a further \$57 million will be put toward intensive case management for students who have been away from school for extended periods due to suspension and exclusion.

The five-year package will also see the creation of 177 new frontline positions, including 12 new Court Liaison Officers, who work closely with students appearing before the Childrens Courts to help get their education back on track.