

## Question on Notice

No. 775

Asked on 14 June 2023

**MR J LANGBROEK** ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide details of all alternative schooling for disengaged students on the Gold Coast in the electorates of Coomera, Theodore, Broadwater, Southport, Surfers Paradise, Mermaid Beach, Mudgeeraba, Burleigh, Gaven, Currumbin and Bonney (reported separately by school years 2021 to 2023 to date) including (a) providers, (b) student and teacher numbers (reported separately by site), (c) budget allocations and (d) outcome statistics (return to school or graduation statistics)?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education supports at-risk and disengaged young people to re-engage with education, training and, where relevant, employment through the Regional Youth Engagement Services (RYES) for secondary-aged children.

The department currently operates a number of alternative education programs on the Gold Coast, including:

- FlexiSpaces at Upper Coomera State College (Theodore Electorate) and Helensvale State High School (Theodore Electorate). FlexiSpaces provide a high-quality, inclusive, flexible learning environment within mainstream high schools to engage and retain students who are at risk of disengaging. The level of staff used in a FlexiSchool model will vary, with different approaches used to meet local student needs.
- The William Duncan Positive Learning Centre (Gaven Electorate), which operates with a dedicated teacher and a teacher aide. The department provided this centre with:
  - two full-time equivalent Teachers at a cost of \$266,879.20 in 2023; and
  - an appropriation payment of \$30,000 per semester – total \$60,000 in 2023.

Students at these facilities remain enrolled in their mainstream school. As such, data is maintained within the student's school record, and is not held centrally.

In addition, Youth Support Coordinators work in selected secondary schools across the State to provide advice and support to students in Years 10 to 12 who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education. A range of other support staff including guidance officers and wellbeing professionals are available to support students with issues that may be impacting their engagement with school.

There are also eight Special Assistance Schools (SAS), which are non-state schools that cater specifically for disengaged students.

The department does not hold information on teacher numbers or the outcome statistics for non-state schools. Some of this information can be accessed from the *My School* website at [www.myschool.edu.au/](http://www.myschool.edu.au/).

Caution should be used when interpreting outcome statistics. Students may leave alternative schooling for a variety of reasons outside of Year 12 completion, including returning to mainstream schools in the state or non-state sectors or other pathways such as employment or other learning opportunities such as TAFE.

Between 2021 and 2023, more than \$7.6 million of Queensland Government recurrent funding has been provided to assist with the recurrent costs of supporting 2350 SAS students in the respective electorates, as follows:

**Southport Flexible Learning Centre, Southport (Bonney Electorate):**

2021 enrolments: 79

2021 funding: \$337,462

2022 enrolments: 82

2022 funding: \$351,567

2023 enrolments: 75

2023 funding (to date): \$160,500

**Toogoolawa School, Ormeau (Coomera Electorate):**

2021 enrolments: 113

2021 funding: \$447,731

2022 enrolments: 102

2022 funding: \$408,679

2023 enrolments: 103

2023 funding (to date): \$215,101

**Arcadia College, Robina (Mudgeeraba Electorate):**

2021 enrolments: 270

2021 funding: \$925,156

2022 enrolments: 285

2022 funding: \$1,233,966

2023 enrolments: 282

2023 funding (to date): \$603,480

**Men of Business Academy, Southport (Southport Electorate):**

2021 enrolments: 95

2021 funding: \$397,385

2022 enrolments: 122

2022 funding: \$518,438

2023 enrolments: 184

2023 funding (to date): \$393,760

**Mastery Schools Australia, Varsity Lakes (Mermaid Beach Electorate) – closed 2022:**

2021 enrolments: 29

2021 funding: \$103,846

2022 enrolments: 199

2022 funding: \$743,729

**Mastery Schools Australia, Southport (Southport Electorate) – temporary site pending accreditation:**

2023 enrolments: 161

2023 funding (to date): \$301,730

**Mastery Schools Australia, Coolangatta (Currumbin Electorate) – temporary site pending accreditation:**

2023 enrolments: 65

2023 funding (to date): \$125,544

**The BUSY School, Coolangatta (Currumbin Electorate) – opened mid-2022:**

2023 enrolments: 104

2023 funding (to date): \$222,560