

Question on Notice
No. 886
Asked on 22 August 2023

MR S BENNETT ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to Bundaberg being named as a trial Educational Precinct—

Will the Minister advise (a) if this initiative is due to a shortage of qualified teachers, (b) the number of qualified teachers in Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Gladstone Council areas who have permanently left the teaching profession since January 2022 and (c) the recorded reason for leaving?

ANSWER:

The newly announced educational precincts trial is an integral part of the Department of Education's strategy, *Equity and Excellence: realising the potential of every student*, and will involve 10 community locations across Queensland. The first two community locations participating in the trial are Mount Isa and Bundaberg.

The selection of Bundaberg as an initial trial site reflected the opportunity to build upon the collaboration that exists between schools in the region. Participation of Bundaberg as a trial educational precinct site recognises the opportunity for schools to work with key industry and community partners to strengthen engagement with education and ensure future local workforce needs are supported with effective career pathways for young people in Bundaberg.

Participating schools and their industry and community partners will work together to increase youth engagement, enhance the transition into junior secondary school and ensure young people have the skills they need for the jobs available in their local community.

Employee separations (resignations and retirements) are a normal part of the employment lifecycle. In the Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Gladstone Council areas, permanent teacher retention remains steady at around 95% in line with the statewide average.

In 2022, there were 145 permanent teacher separations in the Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Gladstone areas, which represents a separation rate of 5.7% (State comparison is 5.2%). Of the 145 separations, 89 were resignations, 53 retired, one was through termination and there were two transfers.

In 2023 (up to June 2023), there were 93 permanent teacher separations in the Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Gladstone areas, which represents a separation rate of 3.6% (State comparison is 3.4%) noting a higher proportion of teacher departures generally occur in the first half of a school year. Of the 93 separations, 55 were resignations, 36 retired, one was through termination and there was one transfer.