

Question on Notice

No. 835

Asked on 14 June 2024

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

With reference to weapons and drug incidents in schools in the Gympie Electorate—

Will the Minister advise for 2020 to 2024 to date (reported separately by financial year) the number of (a) weapons incidents in schools and (b) drug incidents in schools?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education works hard to ensure the safety of the more than 570,000 students learning in Queensland state schools.

As at the end of Term 1, 2024, three students attending schools in the Gympie Electorate were suspended or excluded for the use/possession of weapons. Since 2020, the number of weapon-related incidents have been seven in 2020, 10 in 2021, three in 2022 and six in 2023.

As at the end of Term 1, 2024, students at Gympie Electorate schools were suspended or excluded for drug-related incidents—including for legal substances such as tobacco, vaping and medication—four times. Since 2020, the number of drug-related incidents have been 45 in 2020, 107 in 2021, 147 in 2022 and 120 in 2023.

The number of incidents does not reflect the number of students engaging in these behaviours, as some students can be represented in the data more than once.

Categories for school disciplinary absences were updated in 2023 to include a new category for use or possession of a weapon. Prior to 2023, incidents have been identified by using the previous category of *Physical misconduct involving an object* and searching for key words in the incident details. As a result, care should be taken when comparing data on weapon-related incidents before and after 2023.