

Question on Notice

No. 601

Asked on 10 May 2011

Mr Wellington asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) —

QUESTION:

With reference to children with special needs who are not eligible to attend a State Government special school and who attend a mainstream State Government school—
Will the State Government increase funding resources to better support the special needs students in the mainstream classes so that the class teachers are able to fairly spread their time among all students?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Bligh Government is determined that all young Queenslanders receive a quality education and reach their potential.

The Government has a range of programs in place to support students with disabilities.

Each year since 2000, the Queensland Government has increased the resources available to support students with disabilities in mainstream settings. The Government takes the provision of support to these students very seriously and responds to the growth in student numbers with additional staffing resources.

For the 2011 school year, resources for students with disabilities in mainstream classes increased by 59.1 full time equivalent teacher numbers and 1290.2 teacher aide hours per week. Students also had access to an additional 2.8 therapy and 1.2 nursing positions.

Students-with-disabilities funding is used to support students in special schools and special education programs and services in primary and secondary schools. Therapy services include occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech language therapy. Supplementary teacher aides provide specialised services in AUSLAN, specialised health and notetaking.

There is also a specific allocation of teachers and teacher aides for Pre-Prep.

Support for students with disabilities in schools will be further boosted by the commitment in the 2011 Federal Budget to provide an additional \$200 million over the next three years for additional ways of assisting students with disabilities. Queensland's schools will benefit from a share of this new Federal funding.