

Question on Notice
No. 509
Asked on 20 April 2005

MS STONE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

Will she give an update of the initiatives being implemented under the Safe and Healthy Schools program?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all Queensland students through the implementation of the \$11.1m Safe and Healthy Schools Policy announced in 2004. The Department of Education and the Arts is implementing a number of these initiatives to encourage more young Queenslanders to adopt healthy lifestyle choices.

Smart and Healthy Schools Grants

A total of \$1.5m is available over three years for Smart and Healthy Schools Grants to enhance opportunities for students to engage in physical activity and sport in school settings. Clusters of state and non state schools are eligible to apply for one-off grants of up to \$20 000 for projects such as running a sports camp, constructing a playground facility for student and community use and purchasing sporting equipment such as canoes and bicycles.

Applications for this year's grants are now open and information regarding the grants and previously funded projects is available online at <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy>

Healthy Schools Vans

The first Healthy Schools Van was launched on 1 March 2005. The eye-catching van, based at Mabel Park State School and servicing the Logan/Beaudesert area, will provide a vehicle to drive home messages about the importance of keeping active and eating well.

Three Healthy Schools Vans, each staffed by a teacher and a nutritionist, will support schools to deliver comprehensive nutrition, health and physical activity programs. The vans' staff will work towards increasing the confidence of teachers and parents in relation to nutrition and physical activity for young people and to enhance links with relevant local community agencies.

The remaining two vans will be operational later this year and will be located in other areas of the State.

CPR for LIFE in Schools

During 2004-05, state schools have been provided with \$1m worth of training, resource materials and funding to ensure all state school students leave Year 12 with life-saving Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) skills.

Education Queensland and the Queensland Ambulance Service have worked collaboratively to provide training to school staff in all education districts throughout Queensland and to develop *CPR for LIFE* training kits with all the materials schools need to deliver the program

to students. A *CPR for LIFE* in schools website is also available through Education Queensland's Curriculum Exchange to support schools to deliver this essential training. In addition, a large proportion of these funds have been distributed directly to schools to support professional development needs, the purchase of equipment and teaching materials. Further staff training will be provided by the end of June this year.

Active-Ate

Active-Ate is a school-based resource designed to increase knowledge and awareness and promote healthy eating practices and physically active lifestyles among students in both state and non state schools and the wider school community. It consists of an interactive website at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/activate/> incorporating an interschool challenge program, resources and links to other relevant resources and programs.

The Department of Education and the Arts is currently reviewing the Active-Ate curriculum materials to enhance and expand the program to more schools. This initiative will provide ongoing support, education and resources to principals, teachers, tuckshop coordinators and parents to promote messages about healthy eating and physical activity to students.

Interschool Team Sports

In 2004, a survey gathered information on the provision of school sport in schools with more than 300 students. This year, schools have been required to develop a strategy for the provision of interschool team sport where additional needs have been identified. In some cases, remoteness may not allow schools to offer interschool sport. However, in such cases, schools will offer a suitable intra-school sport program.

School Based Youth Health Nurses and Police Officers

Education Queensland is also working with Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service to expand the School Based Youth Health Nurse and Police Officer programs to reach more state schools throughout the State. From the start of 2005, for the first time, every state secondary enrolled student has access to a School Based Youth Health Nurse, including students enrolled in distance education. An additional eight School Based Police Officers have been recruited, with a further eight officers to be employed in the next round of expansion to make a total of 35 School Based Police Officers working in our schools.

Through the Safe and Healthy Schools initiatives, we are working hard to ensure young Queenslanders are kept safe, healthy and fit for learning in the Smart State.