

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

**1109. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to mental health support for school students in years 11 and 12.

- (1) Does the Department of Education keep records of the number of students seeking assistance or using services for mental health issues?
- (2) If yes to (1), please provide the number of students who have sought or are using such services for the following cohorts —
  - (a) year 11 in 2019;
  - (b) year 12 in 2019;
  - (c) year 11 in 2020 to date; and
  - (d) year 12 in 2020 to date?
- (3) For the cohorts listed in part (2)(a)–(d), will the minister please provide the number of regional students for each?
- (4) If no to (1), how does the department assess the need for such services in schools?
- (5) What resources has the government put in place to provide additional access to mental health services in schools across the state?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The department keeps records for students referred to school psychologists only. Students may, however, access a broad range of school-based supports for mental health issues. This information would be held at an individual school level and includes services and supports provided by teachers; for example, year coordinators, school nurses, chaplains, youth workers and Aboriginal and Islander education officers. Some schools also have external providers of mental health services on site.
- (2) The number of service requests to school psychologists relating to mental health issues is as follows —
  - (a) for year 11 in 2019, 1 225;
  - (b) for year 12 in 2019, 869;
  - (c) for year 11 in 2020 to date, 1 214; and
  - (d) for year 12 in 2020 to date, 879.

This data represents both metropolitan and regional requests and may include multiple requests from individual students.
- (3) The number of service requests to regional school psychologists relating to mental health issues is as follows —
  - (a) for year 11 in 2019, 308;
  - (b) for year 12 in 2019, 199;
  - (c) for year 11 in 2020 to date, 382; and
  - (d) for year 12 in 2020 to date, 213.

This data represents regional requests only and may include multiple requests from individual students.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Resources from the state government to provide additional services in schools include the level 3 mental health coordinator based in schools to deliver the Mental Health in Schools project, which was an election commitment; Gatekeeper suicide prevention training and teen mental health first aid through the school response program; additional resourcing for third party mental health service provision in some schools; and the in-school state-funded chaplaincy program.