

**SCHOOLS — PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS**

1680. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the physical restraint of students, and I ask:

- (a) are schools required to record all instances of the physical restraint of students by school staff;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) if yes to (a), which specific details are required to be recorded;
- (d) if yes to (a), please advise the number of occasions students were physically restrained by school staff in:
  - (i) 2015;
  - (ii) 2016;
  - (iii) 2017; and
  - (iv) 2018 to date;
- (e) please advise the number of individual students who were physically restrained by school staff in:
  - (i) 2015;
  - (ii) 2016;
  - (iii) 2017; and
  - (iv) 2018 to date; and
- (f) please list, by school, the number of occasions students with disability were physically restrained by school staff in:
  - (i) 2015;
  - (ii) 2016;
  - (iii) 2017; and
  - (iv) 2018 to date?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

Regulation 38 under the School Education Regulations 2000 sets out staff members' powers to manage students. The regulation states:

A member of staff of a government school may, in the performance of the person's functions, take such action, including physical contact with a student or a student's property, as is reasonable –

To manage or care for a student; or

To maintain or re-establish order; or

To prevent or restrain a person from –

Placing at risk the safety of any person; or

Damaging any property.

The Department's online incident notification system captures when a restraint is applied across the following incident types:

Physical Assault, Intimidating/Threatening Behaviour, Contact

Believed Suicidal Behaviour or Non-Suicidal Self-injury

Verbal or Cyber Threat and/or Comment

Disruptive Conduct

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Details required to be recorded are:
  - date, time, location and duration of the physical restraint;
  - name of student and name(s) of the staff member(s) involved;

reason for the physical restraint;  
alternative strategies attempted prior to the application of physical restraint;  
brief detail of the follow-up support provided;  
detail of contact with the parent/carer;  
a statement by the staff member/s involved; and  
whenever possible, a statement by the student involved.

(d)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of incidents</b>
2015	230
2016	1 009
2017	1 317
2018 (9 October 2018)	879

Note 1: Each occasion equates to a separate incident of restraint of an individual student

Note 2: Improved restraint questioning implemented within the incident reporting system for start of 2016, as per the *Student Behaviour* policy and procedures.

(e)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of incidents</b>
2015	62
2016	236
2017	817
2018 (9 October 2018)	467

Note 1: Each occasion equates to a separate incident of restraint of an individual student

Note 2: Improved restraint questioning implemented within the incident reporting system for start of 2016 as per the *Student Behaviour* policy and procedures.

(f)

[See tabled paper no 2157.]