

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS — FTE EMPLOYEES

7134. Mr P. Papalia to the Minister for Education

- (1) What is the total full-time equivalent (FTE) of school psychologists employed for Government schools?
- (2) What is the total headcount of school psychologists employed for Government schools?
- (3) How many of the promised net 50 additional FTE school psychologists have been employed to date?
- (4) For each education region:
 - (a) what is the total FTE of school psychologists employed;
 - (b) what is the total headcount of school psychologists employed;
 - (c) in what schools are the school psychologists located and how many FTE and headcount psychologists are there for each school; and
 - (d) for each of the schools listed at (c), what other schools do these school psychologists service?
- (5) How many school psychologists are employed in schools on less than a 0.5 FTE basis?
- (6) Does the Education Department permit school psychologists to also undertake private practice and if so, what is the policy?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

I am advised by the Department of Education as follows:

- (1) As at 12 April 2012, the year to date average is 266.9 FTE school psychologists who were paid by the Department of Education.
- (2) The headcount of school psychologists employed by the Department of Education as at 12 April 2012 pay date is 348.
- (3) Yes, the Department has employed the promised additional school psychologist FTE. These school psychologists were all in place for the start of 2012 school year.
- (4) School Psychologist employed on 12 April 2012 (from payroll data)

Region	(4)(a) Year to date average FTE as at 12 April 2012	(4)(b) Headcount as at 12 April 2012
Goldfields	7.6	10
Kimberley	10.8	14
Metro North	88.4	122
Metro South	90.9	124
Midwest	12.1	15
Pilbara	9.4	12
South West	30.2	37
Wheatbelt	11.6	14

Note: 5.9 FTE is allocated to Central Office

- (c)–(d) Please refer to Attachment 1 for the location of school-based psychologists and associated headcount as at 12 April 2012 [See paper 4776.]

Please note that the headcount of school psychologists across the Department of Education is 348 (as at 12 April 2012 pay date). This figure is at variance with the total number of school psychologists at (4)(b) and those based in host schools (refer to Attachment 1) as some school psychologists are working on other projects which may not be based at a host school, some school psychologists will be on paid leave and some work across two education regions.

Please refer to Attachment 2 for the Department of Education's school psychologist FTE allocation at the start of the 2012 school year [See paper 4776.]. The deployment of school psychologists into schools and host school locations can vary throughout the year according to the occurrence of critical incidents, school psychologists taking leave, the need to provide schools with additional school psychologist support in times of need, and other factors. There is flexibility in relation to the allocation of school psychologists within a region to enable schools to respond to the unique needs of students and local school communities.

There will be variation between the school psychologist FTE allocation for the start of the 2012 school year and the year to date average of 266.9 FTE. This is because the year to date average is determined from the actual number of FTE paid for the year up to and including 12 April 2012 and does not include for example vacant positions or recently employed or relocated school psychologists yet to be included on the Department's payroll system.

- (5) As at 12 April 2012 pay date, 40 school psychologists were paid at an FTE of less than 0.5 FTE.
- (6) School psychologists are permitted to undertake work outside of the Department of Education. However, they must apply to the Director of Labour Relations for approval.