

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question On Notice

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

1305. Hon Neil Thomson to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education

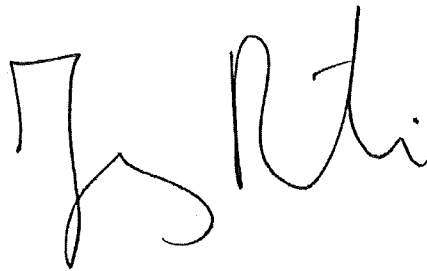
- (1) Is the Minister aware of how many people aged 4-16 live in Broome?
- (2) If yes (1), how many?
- (3) How many people aged 4-16 are enrolled in Broome schools?
- (4) Can the Minister please outline the process of identifying school aged children who are not enrolled in school, and or, have not attended any school or approved learning activities for more than 12 months?
- (5) How many school aged children in Broome are estimated to not be enrolled in any school or approved learning activities?
- (6) Will the Minister please list and describe the “extensive Department of Education strategies already in place at system, regional and school levels” to identify and increase school enrollments and participation in the Kimberley and in Broome specifically?
- (7) How many school aged children in Broome have not attended school or approved learning activities for 12 months or more?

Answer

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) As of the Semester 1 Census data, there were 2,355 students aged 4 to 16 (birthday as at 1 July 2023) in the seven public schools in the Broome Local Government area.
- (4) A student can be regarded as ‘missing’ when a student is not attending school and the school can no longer contact or locate the student or their family, and the school has not received advice that the student is being educated elsewhere. A Student Whose Whereabouts Are Unknown (SWU) Request Form is completed for missing students within 15 school days of their last date of attendance. A missing student remains on the current roll of the school’s enrolment register until confirmation is received from the Department of Education’s Student Tracking Coordinator to move the student to the former roll and absences accrued from the last day of attendance are stricken from the record. The school can only apply for permission to remove the student from the school’s register on the basis that the student’s whereabouts are unknown per Section 21(1)(f) of the *School Education Act 1999*.
- (5) Not applicable – see answer to question (1).
- (6) It is not fully known where the Member is quoting from, however the Department of Education’s Student Attendance in Public Schools policy and procedures provide the practical framework within which public schools apply the attendance-related provisions of the *School Education Act 1999*. The policy and procedures reinforce the importance of

early intervention and building shared responsibility for attendance between schools, students, parents and the broader community. The Department of Education's support initiatives in the Kimberley region are listed in tabled paper xxxx.

(7) Not applicable – see answer to question (1).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Thi'.

Tabled paper xxxx

Department of Education attendance and participation supports in the Kimberley Region

The following Department strategy/initiative/programs supplement the policy.

Strategy/initiative/programs	Description
Every day matters 10-point plan to improve attendance	<p>The Department has developed a 10-point plan as part of its commitment to improving student attendance. The action plan supports the implementation of the Student Attendance in Public Schools policy and procedures through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community-led action • support for schools, families and communities • system action and accountability. <p>The plan is available to all staff on the Department's intranet (Ikon).</p>
Student Attendance Toolkit	<p>The toolkit is an online resource available to all schools that provides practical community, family and classroom strategies to support school leaders to build attendance into whole-school improvement planning.</p> <p>The toolkit is available through the Department's intranet (Ikon) and the Connect teaching and learning platform. It contains 6 professional learning modules and links to over 100 internal and external resources for addressing attendance.</p>
Badged Attendance Officers	<p>Badged attendance officers are legally authorised to detain and question absent students during school hours. Principals have delegated responsibility, on behalf of the Minister for Education to authorise staff to perform the duties of an attendance officer, as per 8 sections 12 and 33 of the <i>School Education Act 1999</i>.</p>
Panel arrangement for the provision of engagement programs for Aboriginal girls and young women	<p>The Department of Education has established a state government-funded panel of service providers to deliver a range of engagement programs for Aboriginal girls and young women in Years 7 to 12 in Western Australian public schools.</p>
Clontarf Foundation Academies	<p>The Clontarf Foundation Academies deliver school-based programs designed to strengthen the education and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal male students and assist their transition through school and into post-school destinations.</p>

Follow the Dream program	The Follow the Dream program strengthens the learning experiences of Aboriginal students in Western Australian public schools through the provision of supplementary educational opportunities. The program is delivered through a longstanding partnership between the Department of Education and the Polly Farmer Foundation.
School Breakfast Program	Since 2014, the Department of Education has engaged Foodbank WA to provide food product to public and non-government schools, to assist with the delivery of healthy breakfasts to students vulnerable to food insecurity. This arrangement is known as the School Breakfast Program. The School Breakfast Program has an identified primary objective of improving the wellbeing and educational engagement of students, by improving access to food through a school-administered food relief program.
REGIONAL	
Education and Training Participation Plans (ETPPs)	<p>All young people in Years 11 and 12 must participate in a full-time approved education, training or employment option as per Section 11B of the <i>School Education Act 1999</i>. These approved options include programs delivered by external providers, contracted through education regional offices, that provide alternative pathways for young people not engaged in other approved options.</p> <p>ETPPs are funded by the Department of Education each year to support young people in Years 11 and 12 to access these programs.</p>
Engagement and Transition Managers and Participation Coordinators	<p>Engagement and Transition Managers (ETM) and Participation Coordinators (PCs) are regionally based and provide support for students who are disengaged, at risk of disengagement or in transition from school to alternate approved options, predominantly in the senior secondary years.</p> <p>A new ETM was appointed to the Kimberley region in January 2023, based in Broome. In April 2023, a recruitment process to appoint 2 Participation Coordinators to support students across the region was initiated by the Department of Education.</p>

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