

Extract from Hansard

[LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES A AND B SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION — Thursday,
26 May 2022]
p415d-416a
Mr Vincent Catania; Ms Libby Mettam

DIVISION 24: EDUCATION —

[Supplementary Information No B8.]

Question: Mr V.A. Catania asked how many RiskCover claims were made by principals, education assistants and teaching staff in the last two financial years.

Answer: Claims Lodged by occupation and financial year

Lodgement FY	Occupation (Grouped)	No. of Claims
2019–20	Education Assistant	659
	Principal	81
	Teacher	710
2020–21	Education Assistant	793
	Principal	70
	Teacher	702

[Supplementary Information No B9.]

Question: Mr V.A. Catania asked for a breakdown of the number and type of claims made by education department employees accessing RiskCover insurance in the last five years.

Answer:

2016–17	1861
2017–18	1822
2018–19	1830
2019–20	1834
2020–21	2020

[Supplementary Information No B10.]

Question: Mr V.A. Catania asked for school attendance rates for every school in Western Australia.

Answer: Public school student attendance data is published annually in the Department of Education Annual Report. In addition, as advised during the Estimates Hearing, individual school attendance data can be viewed online at the Department of Education Schools Online website.

[Supplementary Information No B11.]

Question: Ms L. Mettam asked for a list of the schools across the state that received HEPA filters.

Answer: On 1 October 2021, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee recommended that school systems should consider ventilation as part of the COVID-19 response. That month, the Department of Education engaged an occupational health physician who specialises in ventilation to develop a ventilation strategy for public schools. On 17 November 2021, this strategy was endorsed by the Chief Health Officer. In addition, the advice of the occupational health physician was shared with Catholic and Independent schools to enable them to implement similar strategies. The Department assessed every public-school classroom across the state and provided bespoke guidance on ventilation for each classroom. The strategy prioritised natural ventilation as most effective and where not available mechanical ventilation. Where adequate ventilation could not be supplied by natural or mechanical means, air purifiers fitted with HEPA filters were provided. In addition to the air purifiers distributed to classrooms assessed as requiring one, the Department has now provided additional supply to schools in response to the cooler weather and their specific needs. Placement of air purifiers containing HEPA filters will change during the course of the seasons in different parts of WA across any one year.