

COST OF LIVING — EDUCATION

700. Mr P.J. Rundle to the Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:
I refer to cost of living support for families within the public education system, and the Minister's answer to my question without notice on this topic in the Assembly on 21 February 2023, and ask:

- (a) Does the Department of Education track the number of appeals for assistance in relation to costs of education;
- (b) If yes to (a), please table the number of appeals for such assistance in:
 - (i) Term 1, 2023;
 - (ii) Term 4, 2022;
 - (iii) Term 3, 2022;
 - (iv) Term 2, 2022;
 - (v) Term 1, 2022;
 - (vi) Term 4, 2021;
 - (vii) Term 3, 2021;
 - (viii) Term 2, 2021; and
 - (ix) Term 1, 2021; and
- (c) If no to (a), will the Department begin to track the number of appeals for assistance:
 - (i) If not, why not?

Dr A.D. Buti replied:

- (a) The Department does not specifically track the number of appeals for assistance in relation to costs of education, but it does track the number of applicants seeking assistance through the Secondary Assistance Scheme.
- (b) The Secondary Assistance Scheme is an annual financial assistance program with the following number of applications in 2021 and 2022.

	2021	2022
Public Schools	23,751	20,682
Non-Government Schools	7,807	7,053

The Department will continue to track applications through the Secondary Assistance Scheme but does not have plans to introduce additional reporting requirements for public schools to maintain a register relating to financial hardship requests, as it would generate an additional administrative burden on schools.