

EDUCATION — SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN — BROOME

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?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (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 [See tabled paper 2220.]
- (7) Not applicable – see answer to question (1).