

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2022-23 Budget Estimates – 16 May 2022 1:00-3:15

Education

Responses to questions on notice

S1.

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Portfolio: | Education |
| Witness: | Hon. James Merlino MP |
| Committee member: | Mrs McARTHUR |
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Mrs McARTHUR: Okay. Can I ask you to perhaps give us on notice the number of work hours or days that public servants across the department, including in the Warrnambool office, have assisted in covering school lessons? You can take it on notice, if you like.

Mr MERLINO: Mrs McArthur, if there is any additional information, I am sure we can provide that.

Response to the question:

Across term 1 and term 2, numerous regional and area staff have directly supported schools through providing casual relief teaching. To date, the department has not kept a central record of the staff who have provided this support.

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| Portfolio: | Education |
| Witness: | Hon. James Merlino MP |
| Committee member: | Mr Fraser |
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Mr FRASER: Thanks, Minister. Mr Hibbins, thanks for the question. As the minister said, the mental health in primary schools pilot is being evaluated alongside the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute. Findings of that pilot and the evaluation will be delivered later this year. In terms of mental health practitioners in secondary schools, that is undergoing an internal evaluation through the department’s performance and evaluation division.

Mr HIBBINS: And when is that due to be completed?

Mr FRASER: That will be ongoing and is due to be completed in 2024 I believe it is, but I can check on that.

Response to the question:

The evaluation of the Mental Health Practitioners in secondary schools program is due to be completed in late 2022.