

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 17 June 2019

Subject: Vacant school counsellor and psychologist positions

From: Member for Spillett

To: Minister for Education

Agency: Department of Education

Number: 7.11

Question: How many school counsellor and school psychologist positions are currently vacant? How long have they been vacant? What are the recruitment processes?

Answer:

Three school counsellor positions, one department-based senior school counsellor position, and two department-based school psychologist positions are currently vacant, as detailed in Table 1 below.

During periods of vacancy, service delivery to schools and students is maintained by allocating referrals for service to regional/department-based school counsellors and psychologists and temporary sharing of duties between school-based counsellor positions. Schools also actively seek support from external services, for example, through local non-government organisations or health providers.

Table 1 – School Counsellor and Psychologists vacancies as at 19 June 2019

Position	Date position became vacant	Recruitment status
School Counsellor, Taminmin College	7 June 2019	Recruitment is underway.
School Counsellor, Parap Primary School (School funded position)	3 June 2019	Recruitment is underway.
School Counsellor, Palmerston-based position servicing several schools	5 June 2019	Recruitment will commence shortly.
Senior School Counsellor, department-based	5 May 2019	Recruitment is underway.
School Psychologist, Alice Springs-based servicing schools in Central Australia*	15 March 2019	Recruitment is underway. Two previous recruitment actions did not attract any applicants.
School Psychologist, Alice Springs-based servicing schools in Central Australia*	27 August 2018	Recruitment is underway. Three previous recruitment actions did not attract any applicants.

* The department is considering strategies to attract suitable candidates for positions that have been difficult to fill.