

Question No: 156

Question: Seating Clinics

Date: 11/08/92

Member: Mr STIRLING

To: MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING

1. How many staff are employed in specialist seating clinics for disabled students.
2. Where are seating clinics based.
3. What services do seating clinics offer to schools outside Darwin.
4. Are services offered to mainstream schools by seating clinics; if so, how is this organised.

ANSWER

1. No Department of Education staff are employed in specialist seating clinics as they are administered by the Department of Health and Community Services.

However, therapy staff from the Department of Education attend the clinic when a school-aged child requires SEAT (Seating Equipment and Assessment Team) service. These staff ensure equipment is suitable and functional for the school environment.

2. SEAT clinics are held at the Royal Darwin Hospital and Alice Springs Hospital.

3. Department of Education therapists are providing services to 2 students at Nhulunbuy and 4 students at Katherine. A Department of Education physiotherapist spends 2.5 days per week at the Alice Springs Hospital. The Department of Health and Community Services provide SEAT services to other rural areas.

4. Seating services are offered to clients in mainstream schools, not the schools themselves. They provide wheelchairs for people who do not have independent mobility.

The student can be measured for a wheelchair either at a SEAT clinic or at home or at school, with therapy staff from the Department of Education to provide the necessary prescriptive information.

All SEAT clinic services are provided on a direct service model which focuses on the individual student. Therapists from the Department of Education work with teachers to consider the needs of the teacher and class in the ordering of equipment and training in its use.