

Estimates Committee 2012
Questions Taken On Notice

(12/06/2012 to 21/06/2012)

Date: 14/06/2012

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Behavioural issues in schools.

From: Mr Peter Chandler to Dr Chris Burns
Education and Training

Question: **4-12**
Number of suspensions, expulsions, and teacher assaults – across primary schools, middle years, and secondary education for the last 12 months?

Answer:
Answered On: 19/07/2012

Minister: MINISTER BURNS
Portfolio: MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Question on Notice 4.12

Mr CHANDLER: Number of suspensions, expulsions, and teacher assaults – across primary schools, middle years, and secondary education for the last 12 months?

ANSWER:

- Suspension, expulsion and serious teacher assault data is collected by calendar year. Provided below are the 2011 figures, and year to date figures for 2012 up to 4 June 2012.

<i>Suspensions and Expulsions</i>								
	2011				2012 Year to Date			
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Total</i>
Suspensions	357	1167	464	1988	110	369	148	627
Expulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<i>Serious Teacher Assaults</i>								
	2011				2012 Year to Date			
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Total</i>
By student	3	10	1	14	6	12	2	20
By parent or community member	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	4

- The suspension figures are the total number of individual suspensions for the year. A student may be suspended on more than one occasion during the year. Reasons for suspension are far-ranging and can include uniform violation through to more serious matters such as swearing at or threatening teachers, as well as a range of physical contact.

- In 2011/2012, the Department of Education and Training (DET) undertook an Extreme Behaviours review which encouraged teachers to be more aware of reporting requirements relating to incidents in schools. It was anticipated that this would lead to an increase in reporting assaults against teachers as serious.
- Teachers have a range of supports provided to assist in such situations. These include a new training program to assist teachers to de-escalate volatile situations, professional learning in behaviour management and specialist behaviour advisory support. DET provides a free counselling service through Employee Assistance Services Australia for all staff.