

Questions for Written Answer (QWAs) from the Education Minister Hekia Parata*

*These will not be published on the parliament website until early next week

No.	Question	Answer
12763 (2016)	On what dates, if any, was the Minister made aware of a time out room at Miramar Central School?	On 28 July 2016 I was informed of a complaint received by the Ministry of Education about a parent whose son had been locked in a seclusion room for misbehaving. I was told there would be an independent review of the complaint.
12764 (2016)	What are the names and dates of reports correspondence that the Minister had about usage of a time out room at Miramar Central School, if any?	I have not received any reports about the usage of a time out room or a seclusion room at Miramar Central School. I have received four pieces of correspondence about this topic.
12765 (2016)	How many schools is the Ministry aware of that have a time out room in active use?	This is an operational matter for the Secretary for Education. Time out and seclusion are two different things. Time out is a strategy used by schools to support students to manage their own challenging behaviour. It is often associated with a quiet space that a student may voluntarily use, or be prompted to use, to calm down and re-join the class when they are ready. The student may leave the room at any time. Seclusion is when a student is involuntarily placed alone in a room, at any time or for any duration, from which they cannot freely exit. The door may be locked, blocked or held shut, or not locked, where a level of authority or coercion leads to a student believing that they must not or cannot exit the room in which they are confined. Rooms used to seclude students are unacceptable. I am advised schools are not required to report to the Ministry of Education about the use of time out and seclusion rooms. I have sought urgent advice from the Ministry on the use of seclusion rooms across all schools. This week, the Ministry has advised me that, of the 64 Special Schools in New Zealand, fewer than 10 are currently using a seclusion room. The Ministry will work with these schools to put in place safer and more effective ways of managing challenging behaviour. This is also my answer to written question, 12766, 12767, 12768, 12770 (2016).
12766 (2016)	How many schools is the Ministry aware of that have a seclusion room in active use?	I refer the Member to the response to question for written answer 12765 (2016).
12767 (2016)	How many schools have a seclusion room that the Minister is aware of in active use?	I refer the Member to the response to question for written answer 12765 (2016).
12768 (2016)	How many schools have a time out room that the Minister is aware of in active use?	I refer the member to my answer to written question 12765 (2016).

12770 (2016)	What action is the Minister and Ministry taking to phase out time out rooms, if any?	I refer the member to my answer to written question 12765 (2016).
-----------------	--	---