

**EXTRACTS FROM THE ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

**Received 27 July 2017**

Extract from page 12:

**OUTPUT: PRIMARY EDUCATION**

For the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017:

1. 117 primary school teachers and 93 combined schools (Preschool to Year 12) teachers separated from employment.
2. 54 primary school teachers and 27 combined schools (Preschool to Year 12) teachers on temporary contracts became permanent employees.
3. 103 new primary school teachers and 95 combined schools (Preschool to Year 12) teachers commenced on temporary contracts.
  - a. Information relating to the number of primary school teachers (temporary contracts) recruited from interstate is not held centrally. This information will not be provided by the Department of Education as the administrative effort required to respond is excessive and would result in undue diversion of resources from service delivery.
4. 3 new primary school teachers and 1 combined schools (Preschool to Year 12) teacher commenced permanent employment.
  - a. 1 primary school teacher was recruited from interstate

Extract from page 13:

**OUTPUT: MIDDLE YEARS**

For the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017:

1. 36 middle school teachers separated from employment.
2. 8 middle school teachers on temporary contracts became permanent employees.
3. 24 new middle school teachers commenced on temporary contracts.
  - a. Information relating to the number of middle school teachers (temporary contracts) recruited from interstate is not held centrally. This information will not be provided by the Department of Education as the administrative effort required to respond is excessive and would result in undue diversion of resources from service delivery.
4. 3 new middle school teachers have commenced permanent employment.

- a. 1 middle school teacher was recruited from interstate.

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Extract from page 15:

**OUTPUT: SENIOR YEARS**

For the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017:

1. 34 senior school teachers separated from employment.
2. 17 senior school teachers on temporary contracts have become permanent employees.
3. 41 new senior school teachers commenced on temporary contracts.
  - a. Information relating to the number of secondary school teachers (temporary contracts) recruited from interstate is not held centrally. This information will not be provided by the Department of Education as the administrative effort required to respond is excessive and would result in undue diversion of resources from service delivery.
4. 2 new senior school teachers commenced permanent employment.
  - a. Both senior school teachers were recruited locally.

**Mr HIGGINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION**

In the first six months of this government 280 teachers were separated from Northern Territory schools. There were 272 recruited, of which nine commenced on permanent employment. This is a net loss of eight teachers from the Northern Territory.

There is still a high turnover, one that supersedes the number of teachers recruited. Why is this government continuing to say it is delivering more teachers when it clearly is not?

**ANSWER**

The previous government, as we said many times, made substantial cuts to the Northern Territory—cuts of \$114m. We have put \$20m back into school budgets, and schools have been working hard to recruit extra teachers and staff. As of 9 August the teacher numbers increased by 125. I am not sure where you got your figures from, Opposition Leader.

Schools have also looked at having school counsellors, youth workers and additional teacher assistants in remote communities. It is about putting more teachers back into the system, and that is what our government has been doing. Our schools have an extra \$20m in the budget this year.

**Mrs WORDEN:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 20. The Leader of the Opposition asked a question. He might not be interested in listening to the question but we are.

**Madam SPEAKER:** If you could keep the noise down because I would like to hear the answer too.

**Ms LAWLER:** The previous government, as we know—if you actually spoke to any teacher or principal they will tell you that the CLP cut teachers from our system. Schools are very grateful to have additional dollars in their global budget. There are 178 more full-time equivalent positions in our schools, and 125 of those are actual teachers in our classrooms.

It is about making sure we have great leaders and principals in our schools, and that schools are engaged in their communities so they can keep staff. Teaching is a tough job. One of the key things we are focusing on is principal wellbeing and support for our teachers. Another one of our election commitments was providing mentoring to early career teachers to keep them in the system. Across Australia teachers often leave in their first few years of teaching. How do we support our young or new teachers into the system to keep them there?

We have a plan for that, which we are working very hard on. We also have extra teachers already in schools across the Territory.

Leader of the Opposition, if you actually spoke to teachers and got out on the ground you would hear that.