

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION NO 1299-2012

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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"Dr H C van Schalkwyk (DA) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture:

1. **With regard to his department's postgraduate bursary programme for national language services, (a) how many students (i) have been awarded bursaries, (ii) are currently still in this programme and pursuing their studies and (iii) on these bursaries have dropped out of their studies in each year since its inception and (b) what are the relevant details of the procedures followed once a student drops out of their studies?**

NW1509E

REPLY:

1. Since its inception in January 2009, the postgraduate bursary programme for national language service:-
 - (a) (i). the department awarded 312 bursaries between the Universities of the Free State and Rhodes,
 - (ii). 32 are still in the programme finishing their studies;
 - (iii). 9 dropped out and 2 failed leaving 269 to graduate;
 - (b). The Department encourages universities to enter into contracts with students stating that, if they drop out without a good reason, they would need to pay back the fund with the going 15.5% interest or the standard rate at a given time. This should constrain unnecessary drop-outs since most students cannot afford study fees to start with.