

SCHOOL PRIDE PROGRAM

307. Mr E.S. RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the multimillion-dollar, first-round allocation given to the Western Australian government by the federal government under the national School Pride program.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that her department is responsible for selecting the schools that will receive first-round funding moneys for the School Pride program?
- (2) Will the minister explain the formula that she has used in the selection of those schools in the allocation of this funding?
- (3) Will the minister explain how this formula resulted in 10 schools in Cottesloe, including some of Perth's most elite private schools, receiving more than \$1.6 million while only one school in the electorate of Pilbara has received funding, and that of only \$124 360?
- (4) How does the minister explain the fact that in the Treasurer's seat of Vasse a total of 14 schools have received funding worth more than \$2 million while in the seat of Forrestfield only four schools have been allocated \$500 000?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (1)-(4) The School Pride program is open to all schools in Western Australia, public and private. There are very tight time lines for this program. It was announced in January and the first time line for the first of three rounds was 13 March, if I recall correctly. All schools had the opportunity to put in for that funding. I understand that the applications went to Canberra for final decisions and the decisions were made in Minister Gillard's office, not in Western Australia, and announced by her the other day. There is no formula, and the state department does not make decisions on non-government schools, as far as I am aware. There are three rounds and all schools will have an opportunity to apply for funding. Not all schools got their applications in by that date because of the very tight time lines. All schools will have the opportunity to receive that funding, which is very welcome by the state.