

PARNGURR COMMUNITY SCHOOL — NUTRITION PROGRAM

1614. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs

I refer to the Deputy Premier's response to Question on Notice No. 1130 where he suggests the Parnngurr Community School could join Foodbank's Breakfast Program and ask:

- (a) does the Deputy Premier accept Foodbank's Breakfast Program will not be able to replace a comprehensive Nutrition Program run internally by the school;
- (b) does the Foodbank Breakfast Program include a meal for lunchtime as incorporated in the Parnngurr Community School nutrition program;
- (c) does the Foodbank Breakfast Program provide funding and resources for before and after school sports programs as incorporated in the Parnngurr Community School nutrition program;
- (d) does the Deputy Premier accept that his suggestion of replacing the Parnngurr Community School nutrition program with the Foodbank Breakfast Program will see:
  - (i) a reduction in nutritious food provided to students; and
  - (ii) a reduction in funding for sporting and activities before and after school; and
- (e) has a representative from the Department of Indigenous Affairs been in contact with Parnngurr Community School to assist in providing alternative funding to keep their highly successful program operational; and
  - (i) if not, why not?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) The Parnngurr School Nutrition Program did not include funding for before and after school sports programs.

The Foodbank School Breakfast Program does include access to a range of physical activity resources and nutrition training opportunities for the school and community.

- (d) (i) Foodbank provides six staple food items which are nutritious.

The Parnngurr School Nutrition Program was a time limited initiative that utilised a broad range of activities to provide the whole community with the skills and knowledge necessary to: establish and maintain a community garden; and build the capacity of the community to choose, prepare, cook and store healthy food options for their respective families in a hygienic and regular manner.
- (ii) No. The Parnngurr Community School continues to receive funding for after school activities through the Australian Sports Commission 'Active After-School Community's Program'.
- (e) The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) has not been in direct contact with the Parnngurr Community School, but the DIA Pilbara office is aware of this situation and that funding for the Parnngurr School Nutrition Program was a one-off contract with an end date.
  - (i) The DIA Pilbara Office has had discussions with the Coordinator of the Martu Healthy Lifestyles Program. The Program includes a school nutrition program as a component, has funding for two years and is being implemented across the Western Desert remote communities, including at Parnngurr. The Parnngurr School Principal and some community leaders have excluded this program from operating at Parnngurr.