

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5944. Hon Shelley Archer to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education and Training

I refer the Minister to the Report on the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, carried out by the Kulunga Research Network at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. I draw the Minister's attention to Recommendation 11 of the Report, namely, 'The teaching and learning of traditional Aboriginal languages should be encouraged within schools and adult education as a key strategy for cultural preservation and promotion of cultural identification and intercultural understanding and respect, and I ask —

Will the Minister advise the House what progress has been made in respect of this recommendation?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

Aboriginal Languages continue to be on the list of priority languages under the Department of Education and Training's Languages Strategy. There are 21 Aboriginal Languages currently being taught in 61 schools. The number of students learning an Aboriginal language has increased since 2006. The National Statement for Languages Education in Australian Schools 2005-2008 recognises that Aboriginal Languages have a unique place in Australia's heritage and in its cultural and educational life.

The teaching and learning of Aboriginal languages is also encouraged through adult education. An increasing number of Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers (AIEOs) and Aboriginal teachers who are also language speakers are undertaking Aboriginal Languages teacher training and graduating as Aboriginal Languages teachers with the knowledge and skills to enable them to plan, teach and assess student outcomes in languages.

Pilbara TAFE, through the Pundulmurra campus, delivers two accredited training courses, Certificate III and IV in Australian Languages and Cultural Heritage. The courses provide educators with the knowledge and skills to enable them to plan, teach and assess student outcomes in languages.