

SCHOOLS, COMPULSORY ENROLMENT FEE DEPOSIT

728. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the minister aware that government secondary schools are demanding a compulsory enrolment fee deposit for elective subjects in 2002; that enrolments for electives for which compulsory enrolment fee deposits are being demanded will close before the end of the 2001 school year; that parents have been told by letter that the compulsory enrolment fee deposits of up to \$50 or more must be paid before enrolments for electives will be accepted; and that if the compulsory enrolment fee deposit is not paid, children will not be enrolled and will not be allowed to participate in their chosen electives in 2002?
- (2) Has this new compulsory enrolment fee deposit policy been approved by the minister; and, if not, by whom was it approved?
- (3) When will the minister introduce legislation to amend the School Education Act 1999 to provide for compulsory enrolment fees for elective subjects in government secondary curriculums?

Hon G.T. GIFFARD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) It has been Department of Education policy for a number of years to allow schools to seek a confirmation charge of up to 50 per cent of the total cost of extra cost optional components. Participation in extra cost optional components is dependent upon payment as stipulated in section 100 of the School Education Act 1999.
- (2) As stated in (1), this practice has been in place for a number of years.
- (3) As stated in (1), participation in extra cost optional components is dependent upon payment as stipulated in section 100 of the School Education Act 1999.