

Hon Alan Cadby; Hon Adele Farina; Hon Barbara Scott; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Jon Ford; Hon Ljiljana Ravlich; Hon Norman Moore; Hon Robyn Sweeney; Hon Simon O'Brien; Hon Derrick Tomlinson; Hon Robin Chapple

Division 60: Education -

Question: Hon Alan Cadby MLC, asked -

- (1) *In the laptop program, how much money is going to be spent in the 2001-02 budget period?*
- (2) *Where does this money come from?*
- (3) *What proportion of the budget has been allocated for "teacher inservice"?*

Answer:

- (1) The budget estimate is \$1.65 million.
- (2) The funds are coming from the Departments existing budget allocation.
- (3) The estimated breakup of expenditure for Teacher in-service is:

Support	\$270,000
Professional Development	\$200,000

Question: Hon Adele Farina MLC asked: I refer to page 1069, Capital Works, dot point 3. Please provide an update on the progress of the construction of Eaton High School.

Answer: Tenders for the new Eaton High School have been called and are scheduled to close on 7 November 2001. It is anticipated that construction will commence before Christmas this year and be completed by January 2003.

Question: Hon Barbara Scott asked -

- (1) *What is the predicted cost in 2002 for the full cohort of four year olds when they commence?*
- (2) *How many four year olds are educated at community kindergartens and why were they excluded from the budget figures?*
- (3) *Will the common funding model be retained for these four year old children in community kindergartens, along with their teachers' salaries and has the common funding model been budgeted for?*

Answer:

- (1) The estimated total cash costs in 2002 is estimated to be \$24.6 million.
- (2) In semester 2, 2001, 1 229 children were enrolled in community kindergartens. The support provided by the Department of Education as detailed in (3) below is included in the budget figures.
- (3) The common funding model ceased in 2000. In 2001 the Department of Education provided all community kindergartens with an operating grant and teacher and education assistant salaries. The operating grant and salaries have been budgeted for in the 2001/2002 financial year.

Question: Hon Barbara Scott asked -

- (1) *... "Home School Literacy and Numeracy Links ..."*
 - (a) *How much funding and what particular resources have been allocated to this program?*
 - (b) *Is it the government's intention to provide home schooling parents with any funds, if not why not?*
- (2) *Regarding literacy in the early years and teacher recruitment:*
 - (a) *Given the expanding early childhood programs, is it the government's intention to train and recruit teachers with specialist early childhood training?*
 - (b) *If so, what resources will be devoted to this, will any scholarships be provided, how many teachers will be recruited?*
 - (c) *What policies are being put in place to address the current shortfall in LOTE teachers, how much will these cost?*

Answer:

- (1) (a) Overall funding to the Family Links Strategy is:

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2001-2002	\$1.146 million
2002-2003	\$1.053 million
2003-2004	\$.925 million
2004-2005	\$.870 million

The Strategy has several components, one of which is the Home School Literacy and Numeracy Links. A proportion of the total funds will be allocated to this aspect. Specific project outlines and budget requirements are under development.

- (b) The Government has no intention to provide home schooling parents with any funds, as the specific aim of this strategy is to strengthen ties between families and their children's school.
- (2) (a) The Department of Education has been planning for the expanded early childhood programs for several years, including the early identification of a requirement for additional teachers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) training.

Strategies to address the requirement include:

Edith Cowan University offering a program which trains teachers to teach from Kindergarten to Year 7, thus training teachers proficient in both Early Childhood Education and Primary.

30 Scholarships annually offered to school leavers and Aboriginal people to enter into a teacher-training course, which may include Early Childhood Education.

Fifty-seven scholarships at a cost of \$173,000 are available for 2002 and early childhood may be included in this program.

An Assessment Program for Teachers and Education Assistants who may have prior experience and training relevant to early childhood education and who can be accredited for this through an assessment of their skills.

Encouragement of teachers who have completed Early Childhood studies in their Bachelor of Education degrees to undertake a practicum to be recognised as qualified K and P teachers.

- (b) Costs will vary according to the program implemented
- Scholarships cost \$3000 per person for HECS costs per year.
- Supervised practice have cost implications for teacher relief and supervision.
- The budget for the Design and Implementation of an Assessment Program for Teachers and Education Assistants is approximately \$40,000.
- (c) The Department of Education tender to tertiary institutions to conduct Italian, Indonesian and Japanese courses.
- Funding sources:
- The Commonwealth Government through National Asian Language and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy to retrain teachers in Asian languages;
- The Department of Education funds retraining courses in 4-week intensive modules through its tender process at a cost of approximately \$30,000 for the program. The cost per person depends on the number of participants and whether they are from country or metropolitan areas and may include travel, accommodation and teacher relief.
- Final year scholarships are available for applicants to complete a final year of teacher training to become a LOTE teacher.

Question: Hon Barbara Scott asked -

- (1) *What was the restructuring cost, or what is the predicted cost, in redundancies and salaried adjustments?*

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- (2) *What savings have been made, if any, by dismantling the early childhood directorate?*
(3) *What was the number of officers who took redundancies?*

Answer:

- (1)-(2) In addition to the \$363 000 identified under the Machinery of Government changes for three officers, four other officers took redundancy at a total cost of \$381 456. Savings of about \$10 000 is expected from the structural change to the Early Childhood Education area.
- (3) Seven officers.

Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked -

- (1) *Is EDWA still funding principals' associations? How much and to what groups?*
(2) *What proportion of the education budget is spent on private schools?*
(3) *How is the figure arrived at?*
(4) *What is the breakdown of expenditure on private school education from the State Budget? What will be the trend in future years?*
(5) *What government subsidies are given to private schools?*
(6) *What government support is provided on services such as water, electricity, school buses to private schools? Please provide a breakdown.*

Answer:

- (1) Yes - Funding was provided in 2000/01 for principals associations as follows:-

	\$
WA Primary Principals' Association	34,000
WA Secondary School Executives' Association Inc	21,000
WA District High School Administrators' Association	18,000
WA Education Support Principals' Association	6,300
WA Subject Teaching Administrators' Association	14,000
WA Primary Deputy Principals' Association	17,200

- (2) 0.14%
- (3) This is based on the estimated expenditure in 2001/02 for non-government school students for the following assistance as a proportion of the total cost of services by the Education Department of \$2.186 Billion:

Boarding Away from Home Allowance	-	\$1.5 Million
Secondary Assistance	-	\$1.1 Million
Clothing Allowance	-	\$.04 Million

- (4)&(5) The 2001/02 Education Services Budget Estimate for expenditure in the form of direct grants and subsidies paid to, or on behalf of, private schools includes:

	\$m
General per capita grants	154.173
Low Interest Loan Scheme interest subsidies	7.892
Computers in schools grants	5.000
Special education per capita grants	1.879
Non-Government School Psychology Service Grant	1.646
Loan interest subsidies (old scheme)	0.768

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Students at Educational Risk Project Grants	0.289
Parents and Friends' Federation Subsidy	0.069
New schools reading foundation grants	0.040
New schools stock grants	0.027

Forward estimates for expenditure on per capita grants show increases due to expected enrolment increases in non-government schools and increases flowing from the indexation of grants. Computers in schools grants (approved under the previous Government) cease in 2001/02. Low Interest Loan Scheme interest subsidies increase each year due to the cumulative costs of the annual lending program. Old loan scheme interest subsidies are in decline as old loans are paid out. Other grants and subsidies remain more or less fixed.

- (6) There is no provision in the Education Services Budget for water, electricity or transport subsidies for private schools. The cost of transport subsidies should be referred to the Minister for Transport and any cost of reduced water service charges should be referred to the Minister for Water Resources. No subsidies for electricity services are known to exist.

Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked: Can the Department provide, either now or on notice, some data on the spending in this budget on government schools compared with that in other States?

Answer: Comparable figures for this budget are not available for other States. The latest available comparable data is from the National Schools Statistics Collection for the financial year 1999/2000. The report presents per capita expenditure for each of the States and Territories in both a cash and accrual format. These tables are reproduced below.

PER CAPITA COSTS COMPARISONS

State/Territory	1999/2000 Total Per Capita Expenditure	
	Cash	Accrual
	\$	\$
New South Wales	6,264	7,158
Victoria	6,171	7,823
Queensland	6,259	8,353
South Australia	6,485	7,500
Western Australia	6,792	7,494
Tasmania	6,486	7,593
Northern Territory	9,336	12,664
Australian Capital Territory	6,267	7,966
Australia	6,358	7,699

Notes:

- (1) Costs include both capital and recurrent outlays.
- (2) Accrual cost comparisons across the States and Territories need to be treated with caution as they are not strictly comparable due to the differing accounting policies of each jurisdiction.

Question: Hon Jon Ford asked: The second last dot point of the capital works program on page 1069 refers to \$4.5 million asbestos cement roof replacement program. How many schools still need this work?

Answer: The following schools will have asbestos-cement roofs replaced during 2001/2002. By 30 June 2002, it is anticipated that all asbestos-cement roofs in schools will have been replaced -

Applecross Senior High School
Attadale Primary School
Belmont Primary School
Bentley Primary School

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Cadoux Primary School
Carnamah District High School
Central Midlands Senior High School
City Beach High School
Corrigin District High School
Cunderdin Agricultural College
Denmark Agricultural College
Dumbleyung Primary School
Duncraig Senior High School
East Greenwood Primary School
Goolellal Primary School
Guildford Primary School
Harvey Senior High School
Heathridge Primary School
Hope Valley Primary School
Koonawarra Primary School
Kulin District High School
Lake Grace District High School
Mirrabooka Senior High School
Morley Primary School
Mount Hawthorn Primary School
Mount Lockyer Primary School
Narrogin Agricultural College
Narrogin Senior High School
Nollamara Primary School
North Perth Primary School
Picton Primary School
Pinjarra Primary School
Rossmoyne Senior High School
Safety Bay Senior High School
South Perth Primary School
Tranby Primary School
Wanneroo Senior High School
Wickepin Primary School
Willetton Primary School
Yarloop Primary School
Yule Brook College

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich MLC asked whether a study has been conducted on the opportunity cost that might have occurred as a result of the previous Government having not provided the appropriate support network to the learning technologies project? Does the Department know the amount of that cost? Is it possible to provide the amount of how much those 240 FTEs are worth?

Answer: The Department of Education conducted a survey of 67 representative schools and then extrapolated that to the total school population to determine the approximate cost of school funded information technology support. This resulted in an estimated 246.3 FTE at a total cost of \$11.1 million to be used for this purpose.

Question: Hon Norman Moore asked -

- (1) Last year, there was a cash surplus of \$61.5 million that brought the total cash assets to \$201 million. What was the reason for the large cash surplus last year, and, in a general sense, what is the purpose of such a large cash reserve?*
- (2) In a broad budgetary sense, why is it planned to run down the cash reserve by \$22 million this year, hold it relatively stable for the next two years, and then run it down by a significant \$54 million in the*

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last year, 2004/05? Why not run the reserves down earlier to relieve some of the budgetary pressures in the next two years?

Answer:

- (1) The additional cash surplus of \$61.5 million accumulated in 2000/01 mainly comprises the following:
- Increases in school cash balances reflecting greater emphasis on self-management. (\$7.0 million).
 - Additional Commonwealth Program advances to be expended in the 2001/02 financial year. (\$13.5 million)
 - Increase in the balance of the School Development and Improvement Trust from asset sales. (\$7.7 million)
 - Deferred payment by Treasury in 2000/01 for the 1999/00 appropriation shortfall. (\$10.0 million)
 - Additional appropriation provided by Treasury in 2000/01 for Enterprise Agreement costs falling due in 2001/02. (\$6.7 million)
 - Provision for an additional fortnightly employee pay period falling due in 2004/05 (\$5.4 million)
 - Other program commitments (\$11.2 million) carried forward to 2001/02 including:
 - E2c concept trial in the Fremantle District
 - Upgrade of the Department's payroll system
 - Carryover of commitments for the automatic irrigation program
- The cash balance of \$201 million mainly comprises schools (\$98 million) which receive funding early in the school year but have expenditure commitments mainly falling after June 30. Other components are Commonwealth program advances and other trust accounts (\$52 million) and the provision for the additional fortnightly employee pay period falling due in 2004/05 (\$32 million).
- (2) Cash balances will reduce during 2001/02 as expenditure commitments, described in (d) above, are carried out during the year. The reduction of \$54 million in 2004/05 can be attributed to the additional cash payments required for the additional fortnightly employee pay period falling due in 2004/05.

Question: Hon Norman Moore asked -

- (1) *Have any Senior Executive Officers of the Education Department taken a redundancy package, and if so, who and why?*
- (2) *Were any of these officers encouraged to take redundancy and if so, who were they and who encouraged them?*
- (3) *Were all decisions relating to the filling of the acting positions, created by the redundancies, made by the Acting Director General, or was the Minister or his office staff involved in any way?*

Answer:

- (1) Seven officers have taken voluntary redundancy. These officers were:
- Stephen Home
 - Neil Jarvis
 - Di Kerr
 - Pam Duckworth
 - Gregory Martin
 - Julian Krieg
 - Eve Lucas
- Some of these officers accepted the Management Initiated Redundancy packages offered as a part of the Machinery of Government Report whilst others requested redundancy resulting from recommendations in the Report "Investing in Government Schools: Putting Children First".
- (2) I am not aware of any officer being encouraged to take redundancy. I understand that the Acting Director General has initiated investigation by an independent inquirer to address any allegations in this area.

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- (3) All decisions relating to the filling of the acting positions were made by the Acting Director General or a panel of senior officers from within the Department.

Question: Hon Robyn Sweeney MLC asked: What was the figure on the social-emotional continuum?

Answer: \$158 500 has been allocated to the Social-Emotional Continuum in the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 financial years.

Question: Hon Simon O'Brien asked -

- (1) *Does the Department intend to continue the hearing and sight health check –up of four year olds? If so, will that take place in the kindergarten or pre-primary year.*
- (2) *In November last year the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations lodged Report No. 33 relating to the dental health of Aboriginal children in the Kimberley. The committee recommended that, as a public health measure, a dental hygiene program including toothbrushes, toothpaste and a regular session every day at school be implemented in schools in the area. Has the Minister for Health or the Department of Health followed that up with the Department of Education?*

Answer:

- (1)-(2) The Department of Health has advised that this service is provided by them. The Department of Education is not aware of any special initiatives coming from the Department of Health. However, many schools have had special dental health programs for several years involving children cleaning their teeth. These programs may have had some incidental support from health officers but are largely school activities.

Question on Notice submitted by Hon Derrick Tomlinson MLC -

- (1) *Is the program proceeding for the Department of Education to purchase properties on the western side of Mathoura Street to expand the grounds of Midvale Primary School?*
- (2) *If yes, how many properties (a) had been purchased and (b) remain to be purchased before the project is completed?*
- (3) *What was the total cost of the properties already purchased and what is the estimated cost of properties to be purchased?*
- (4) *Is it still intended that other public services for children and families will be co-located with Midvale Primary School?*
- (5) *When is it planned to commence the redevelopment of Midvale Primary School?*

Answer:

- (1) The Department of Education is proceeding with the purchase of properties on the eastern side of Mathoura Street to allow for the expansion and redevelopment of Midvale Primary School.
- (2) (a) The Department has purchased 2 properties and 2 units.
(b) At present the Department proposes to purchase an additional 8 properties and 7 units.
- (3) The total cost of properties purchased to date is \$366,026. The current estimated cost to purchase the proposed additional properties is \$1.5 million.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The redevelopment is proposed to commence in July 2003.

Question on Notice submitted by Hon Robin Chapple -

- (1) *Who is responsible for administering the portion of NIELNS education funding earmarked for Port Hedland?*
- (2) *How has this funding been spent in the Port Hedland area?*
- (3) *What process of community consultation exists regarding this funding?*

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Answer:

- (1) The NIELN Strategy involves the Department of Education, Catholic Education and Aboriginal Independent Schools of WA managing various elements of the total program. A NIELN Committee within the Hedland district administers the funding distribution.
- (2) Funding for Element 1, Initiative 1.5, Community and Industry Education Compacts has been used to commence negotiation for Student, School to Work program with BHP. The Bilateral Agreement for NIELN Strategy was signed off on 25 June 2001 and limited funding has been released to the three education sectors.
- (3) The District NIELN Committee established by District Director of the Hedland District Education Office in Term 4, 2000 was required to have community representatives.