

NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, FUNDING

Petition

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura) [3.34 pm]: I present the following petition on the behalf of the Minister for State Development -

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, respectfully commend to the attention of the House that:

- Successive State Governments have promised to fund non-government school students at a minimum of 25% of total real government school per pupil average cost.
- The 2002/3 State Budget shows that the total cost of educating 256947 government school students this year will be \$2257m. (\$8784 each, on average).
- The 108624 students in non-government schools will be allocated only \$170m. by the State in 2002/3 (\$1565 each, on average - i.e., only 17.8% of average government school per pupil cost).
- The additional cost in 2002/3 to provide these students with an amount at least equivalent to last year's allocation, which was 18.3% of government school per pupil cost, would be \$4.9m., or an extra \$45 each.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Western Australian Parliament will demand that the State urgently provides an additional \$4.9m. to the non-government sector in 2002/3, and urgently works towards allocating a further \$64m. per year which is needed to meet long-standing State commitments to provide non-government school students with an average level of State funding equivalent to at least 25% of the average real government school per pupil operating cost (i.e., \$2196 in 2002/3 - 25% of \$8784).

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 80 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 94.]