

SCHOOLS, NORTH WEST, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

1108. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Education and Training

I refer to the recent announcement that the *100 Schools Project* was a part of the State Government's overall strategy to improve learning opportunities for children in Government schools across the State, and the project was part of the Government's \$129million investment in information and communications technology in schools to help improve the learning outcomes of students, and I ask -

- (a) how much of the proposed \$129million is to be spent on information and communications technology programs in the North West of the State;
- (b) in which towns and communities will the funds be spent;
- (c) who will be responsible for administering the funds; and
- (d) when will the programs commence operation in each town referred to above?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (a) As many of the initiatives are still in the early planning stages, it is not yet possible to isolate the portion of the \$129m which will be spent in the North West of Western Australia
- (b) Funds relating to these initiatives will benefit all towns and communities, including those in the North West.
- (c) Funding will be administered centrally.
- (d) It is not yet possible to identify when all of the programs will commence operations in North West towns. However, the Department of Education and Training has already deployed high speed, high bandwidth telecommunications services to many North West schools and communities. In addition, a technology solution will soon be deployed to more than 500 School of the Air and Distance Education sites across Western Australia, providing students in rural and remote communities with online access to a wide range of services.

Other initiatives, such as the One Hundred Schools Project, are still in the early implementation phase. The initial group of 35 schools has already been identified and announcements relating to the remaining 65 schools will be made shortly.