

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5943. 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 10 of the Report, namely, 'Practical strategies to assist parents' and carers' understanding of the benefits of positive racial socialisation for their children's educational success and behavioural adjustment should be promoted through cultural organisations, community education strategies and schools', and I ask —

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

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

The Department of Education and Training has a number of strategies in place to increase the involvement of Aboriginal parents in their child's education and to participate in the school community.

In 2007, six schools with their Aboriginal communities commenced a trial to develop a formal partnership agreement based on the principles of cross-cultural respect and shared understanding of the role that each has in achieving the best possible results for Aboriginal students. In 2008, the trial will be extended to include schools with significant numbers of Aboriginal students across a number of districts.

Walk Right In, You Can Make a Difference is a training resource which includes leadership strategies for principals and teachers to assist them to engage Aboriginal parents in their children's education. Workshops were conducted across the State for school and district office staff in 2006.