

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — ENGAGEMENT FUNDING

916. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Minister for Education:

I refer to page 20 of the Department of Education's 2011–12 annual report.

- (1) Was the \$4.8 million to 75 schools for engagement purposes the only funding specifically allocated to target participation rates in 2011?
- (2) What is meant by the statement, "In 2012 another \$2.5 million was allocated", and does this refer to an allocation for regions only; and, if so, what is the total amount allocated across all schools in 2012 for engagement purposes?
- (3) Since the government abolished the participation directorate, who in the Department of Education monitors and analyses the success or failure of each participation plan that is funded?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No. The \$4.8 million allocated to 75 schools in 2011 through the school support programs resource allocation for engagement purposes was not the only funding specifically allocated to target participation rates. In 2011, \$2.5 million was also allocated to regions to develop education and training participation plans to support 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds to access appropriate school, further education and training, employment or community-based programs. The total funding for that is \$7.3 million.
- (2) Yes, the \$2.5 million allocated in 2012 represents funding allocated to the education regions to specifically target community service providers and training providers that offer programs that engage at-risk young people. In addition to that \$2.5 million, schools have been allocated \$5.5 million through the schools support programs resource allocation in 2012 to provide engagement opportunities for young people within their school. The total funding for that was \$8 million. This enables these schools the flexibility to use this resource to best meet the individual needs of their students.
- (3) The participation branch in the central office of the Department of Education was originally set up to support the implementation of the raised school leaving age legislation in 2006. The change to the school leaving age is now firmly embedded and it is anticipated that the schools no longer require the same level of support they did while it was being implemented. The remaining functions of the participation directorate are now provided as part of the statewide services division and evaluation and accountability directorate. Support has been retained in the regions, including participation coordinators and managers of engagement and transition. Each of the eight directors is responsible for managing the development, monitoring the implementation and assessing the achievement of outcomes identified within their regions' engagement and training participation plans.