

DJIDI DJIDI ABORIGINAL SCHOOL, RELOCATION

42. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

Given the Court Government's claim to support Aboriginal education -

- (1) Why is Djidi Djidi, an award-winning Aboriginal school in Bunbury, not being given enough support for its growth even though it meets all relevant criteria?
- (2) Was the Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School in Bunbury advised recently that it would not be relocated from Carey Park for at least two years and would become a K-3 school from 2001?
- (3) If not, what was the school told?
- (4) What were the reasons for this decision?
- (5) What action has the Education Department taken to acquire a site within Carey Park for the construction of a new school?
- (6) What is the timetable for the construction of the new school, and will it have on-site pre-primary and kindergarten facilities?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I am advised -

- (1) The Education Department has been planning for the possible growth of Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School for some time, including using a consultant to assess all possible land in the Bunbury area to find a possible alternative site for the school.
- (2)-(4) No. Djidi Djidi is a K-2 school with some older students remaining there for particular academic or social reasons. Before growth beyond year 2 can be formally considered, a new site needs to be obtained.
- (5) The Education Department has established a working group consisting of representatives from the Education Department, City of Bunbury, the Djidi Djidi school board and the Djidi Djidi school principal to identify a suitable site for the school. All site options being considered are within the local area.
- (6) The timetable for the development of a new school will depend on the site that is ultimately selected. It is anticipated that the new facility will have on-site preprimary and kindergarten facilities. As I explained yesterday in answer to a question asked by Hon Christine Sharp, the school is doing a fine job and much progress is being made to sort out those issues.