

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — HAPPY KIDS PROGRAM

32. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the successful Happy Kids program, which has been helping children at risk over the last 13 years through Department of Health funding.

- (1) Given that the report by Edith Cowan University found that primary school children taking part in this program were more likely to successfully transition to high school, why is the department ceasing the funding for this program this year?
- (2) Given the need for successful early intervention programs, will the minister commit to continue funding this program; and, if not, why not?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:

I wish to thank the very honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Health —

- (1)–(2) A contract review in November 2011 identified that the Happy Kids service was performing well, but it was delivering educational outcomes and did not have any specific child and adolescent health outcomes. This matter was referred to the Department of Education for consideration.