

SCIENCE TEACHERS - QUALIFICATIONS

5463. Hon Barry House to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education and Training

With reference to question No. 4711, about teachers of science and mathematics, which was answered on 29 May 2007 -

How many or what proportion of science teachers in Western Australian public high schools have either -

- (a) a three year or equivalent science degree with a major in one of the physical or biological sciences and a minor in a related field, plus at least one year of education studies;
- (b) a four year or equivalent double degree, Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Science; and
- (c) four year or equivalent degree, Bachelor of Education (Secondary). The graduates are secondary teachers with a major and minor science speciality?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

Whilst most science teachers employed by the Department of Education and Training possess either a Bachelor of Science degree together with a Graduate Diploma of Education or a Bachelor of Science degree and a Bachelor of Education, teachers hold a variety of qualifications, and in many cases, multiple qualifications from a variety of tertiary institutions. These include specialist graduate diplomas, higher diplomas, certificates, masters, and doctorates.

A specific answer to this question would require a manual examination of the records of all 888 science teachers referred to in the answer to question 4711. This would require significant resources which would need to be redirected away from the task of staffing schools.