

PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, MULTI-AGE GROUPING

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Has a decision been made to implement multi-age grouping for all levels of primary school from kindergarten to year 7 in 2002?
- (2) Will all government schools participate in multi-age grouping this year?
- (3) If not, how many will and how many will not?
- (4) Has provision been made for the professional development of teachers in MAG curriculum and pedagogy? If yes -
  - (a) How many days of professional development will be allocated for each teacher?
  - (b) Who will conduct the professional development?
  - (c) Will relief staff be provided in schools when teachers are released for MAG professional development?

**Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No. Classroom arrangements are the responsibility of the principal. Some schools choose to adopt multi-age groupings.
- (2) That is a matter for individual schools.
- (3) Census data is not available until the end of April 2002.
- (4) Yes.
  - (a) The school development grant provides funds for professional development for all teaching and non-teaching staff. The schools decide how many days each teacher is allocated based on a school development plan and the needs of individual teachers.
  - (b) The education districts provide professional development with support from central office and private consultants.
  - (c) Relief is provided for teachers from the school development grant.