

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF TAFE, RESTRAINING ORDERS AND STAFF REPORTS OF  
INTIMIDATION

2934. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Education and Training

I refer the Minister to the article in *The West Australian* on 28 May 2004, titled 'Three school violence probes' and ask -

- (a) for the school years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to date, how many restraining orders have been taken out on behalf of staff of Government primary schools, high schools (including middle schools senior high schools and senior colleges), and TAFE colleges;
- (b) for the school years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to date, how many reports of intimidation, threats and physical violence have been made by staff of Government primary schools, high schools (including middle schools senior high schools and senior colleges), and TAFE colleges;
- (c) what action has been taken to ensure the safety of school staff from intimidation, threats and physical violence in the workplace; and
- (d) what is the break down of restraining orders, by education district?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (a) Restraining orders do not emanate from the school. They are normally taken out by staff as a result of police involvement.

There is currently no collation of statistics with respect to reported incidences within TAFE Colleges as they are centres for adult learning and this environment is, in part, supported by provisions for conduct on college land and related penalties and disciplinary consequences outlined in the by-laws of each College.

- (b) The Department is currently implementing an online system of reporting incidents. Entry of faxed incidents into the online system is ongoing. This data will not be available until 2005 when all schools will be using the online system.

The following figures are offered as a general indication of the number of reports which have led to student suspension:

Suspension Category	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Physical assault or intimidation of staff	876	922	911	912	TBD
Physical assault or intimidation of other students	5323	4785	4792	4240	TBD

TAFE Colleges as for (a).

- (c) All schools are required to develop and implement behaviour management strategies in line with the Behaviour Management in Schools Policy. The policy requires schools to develop a learning environment that is welcoming, supportive and safe. All staff are expected to be fully informed about the school's approach to behaviour management and to be committed to the consistent implementation of each strategy.

40 staff from across the State have trained in the comprehensive Professional Assault Response Training (PART) train-the-trainer course, with an additional 20 to be trained in November 2004. The intensive course focuses on providing skills to de-escalate conflict and violence and teach low-key restraint techniques. These staff then provide two-day workshops for schools across the State on the de-escalation of conflict and in appropriate physical restraint.

Schools are required to investigate any threats or occurrences of violence. They are asked to complete a risk assessment of violence in the school to determine if there are other strategies that could be used to minimise the risk of these incidences occurring. This may include the development of procedures and/or training of staff to deal with incidences when they occur. Department safety and security staff provide advice where required to assist with this process.

- (d) as for (a)