

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING - CAPITAL WORKS AND MAINTENANCE

696. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the minister representing the Minister for Education and Training:

- (1) How does the education department determine the priority for capital works and maintenance programs in Western Australian schools?
- (2) How many Western Australian education department districts have a maintenance and capital works program priority list?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)-(2) The Department of Housing and Works reviews the condition of school buildings on a cyclical basis, and the Department of Education and Training uses this information to determine its maintenance priorities, with input from district education offices. Ultimately, the government's school capital works priorities are reflected in the state budget delivered in May of each year. The Carpenter government is investing a record \$1 billion in maintenance and capital works during this term of office. Spending on capital works in 2007-08, excluding commonwealth grants, is more than 83 per cent higher than in 2000-01 under the former Liberal-National government - 83 per cent greater. Boy oh boy! That is absolutely phenomenal, and members opposite know it. Members opposite should never ask a question to which they do not know the answer. This is an excellent story about this government's commitment to education and educational infrastructure, which leaves those opposite for dead, and they know it.

The government could do more but for the meagre contribution of the commonwealth government in this area. The commonwealth government has been absolutely hopeless, as is demonstrated by the polling for the federal election. In 2007-08, the commonwealth provided only 15c in every dollar of capital expenditure on WA government schools.