

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5946. Hon Shelley Archer to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education and Training

I refer the Minister to the Report on the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, carried out by the Kulunga Research Network at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. I draw the Minister's attention to Recommendation 13 of the Report, namely, 'Strategies for overcoming structural and attitudinal disincentives to proper employment need to be further developed to be applicable to the changing needs and opportunities for employment and training in remote, rural and metropolitan settings. These should include - (a) regular review of the rules for CDEP, unemployment and Abstudy benefits, (b) extending the financial and other incentives to employers to provide workplace training and apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities, particularly in remote areas, and (c) instituting programme and funding incentives to encourage strategic partnerships between government departments and other sectors, e.g. between DEST, FaCSIA, community and business organisations and employees', and I ask -

Will the Minister advise the House what progress has been made in respect of this recommendation?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

CDEP is a Commonwealth program which is being considered as part of the broader Commonwealth Indigenous reform agenda. Senior officers of the Department of Education and Training (DET) meet with senior officers of the Commonwealth Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to develop a protocol that results in both Governments being able to jointly identify and subsequently share all data relevant to the identification and implementation of CDEP reform and Indigenous employment and training policy. These meetings occur four times a year and began in 2007. The last meeting was on 12 March 2008. Further meetings are planned for 2008 on 14 May, 13 August and 12 November.

Strategies such as those identified in Recommendation 13 will be considered as part of these discussions.