

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS, RATIO TO STUDENTS

431. Hon HELEN HODGSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the average ratio of students per school-appointed chaplain in government primary schools in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the average ratio of students per school-appointed chaplain in government secondary schools in Western Australia?
- (3) How many chaplains are provided by the Education Department to provide services to students in schools on a full-time or part-time basis?
- (4) What amount of funding has been allocated for this financial year for the provision of chaplain services in all government schools in Western Australia?
- (5) What amount of the chaplain services in government schools is funded by or donated by non-government sources?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) The appointment of a school chaplain is made on the basis of an individual grant between a school and the local community. Therefore, it is not possible to provide this information. Not all schools have or choose to have a school chaplain service.
- (3) The Churches Commission on Education, not the Education Department, employs chaplains in schools. However, information available to the Education Department indicates approximately 14 full-time and 72 part-time chaplains are working in government secondary schools.
- (4) In an agreement between the Churches Commission on Education, the Education Department and the Office of Youth Affairs, the Churches Commission on Education was provided with a grant of \$250 000 this financial year to support the chaplaincy program in schools. The Education Department has provided the Churches Commission on Education with a grant of \$200 000 and the Office of Youth Affairs has provided the other \$50 000.
- (5) This information is not readily available to the Education Department.