

HON BARRY HOUSE

Personal Explanation - Capital Grants for Schools

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [4.39 pm] - by leave: I understand that I must do this at the first opportunity. I claim to have been misrepresented by the Minister for Education and Training in an earlier answer to a question and will make a very brief statement on the matter. The Minister for Education and Training, in answering an earlier question, waded around and referred to an article implying that I had a view of federal intervention in state matters of education different from that of certain people, including Hon Colin Barnett. I inform the house that I have exactly the same view as Hon Colin Barnett - and, for that matter, Hon Alan Carpenter and Hon Ljiljana Ravlich - of federal intervention in state matters. The point I made in the article - my comments were reported fairly - relate to a \$163 million program of capital grants for minor works in schools, in which I believe schools can claim up to \$150 000 for individual works. My comments were made from a school community perspective. I merely said that if money were available, why would a school community not seek it; and that if the state government were doing its job properly, there would be no need for these federal programs. That is not an endorsement of, and I do not endorse, the federal government overriding state's rights.