

SCHOOLS, CAPITAL UPGRADES

527. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the parliamentary secretary table -
 - (a) a list of all Western Australian Government schools awaiting capital upgrades and the anticipated cost of those upgrades;
 - (b) the current prioritised order for carrying out those upgrades;
 - (c) the criteria used for that prioritising?
- (2) How many government schools -
 - (a) still require funding for provision of covered assembly areas;
 - (b) are considered not to have covered assembly areas meeting criteria and quality now considered standard?
- (3) Why has the \$40m from the sale of AlintaGas earmarked for capital upgrades in government schools been allocated over a four-year period and not one year?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) There is no such list available. However, the need to continue to upgrade the facilities in a number of existing schools is acknowledged. All school upgrades are processed through each district education office, which reviews their assessment of capital works needs at schools in the district on an annual basis. These assessments are then ranked and prioritised in relation to other schools with competing needs. Subsequently, all capital works submissions received from the 16 district offices are considered and assessed from a statewide perspective.
- (2) It is estimated that 160 primary and district high schools, mostly with enrolments of fewer than 190 students, have not yet been provided with a covered assembly area.
- (3) The \$40m secondary schools refurbishment program was scheduled over a four-year period to enable projects to be coordinated in an orderly fashion. A four-year program also enables schools to prepare for educational change; for example, to develop and introduce alternative organisational patterns such as middle schooling, prior to the design and completion of new physical facilities.