

SCHOOLS, RANGER AND CADET PROGRAMS

2760. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 135 and the Minister's promise to pursue the issue of the cadet programs and ranger groups operating within the education system and ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware that the Police Rangers have traditionally been under the command of a State Coordinator based at the Community Policing section at Cannington;
- (b) is the Minister further aware that this position has been downgraded from Sgt to First-Class Constable, and that the incumbent has now advised that he is no longer the State Coordinator;
- (c) is it correct that the State Advisory Committee has not met for more than 14 months;
- (d) is it a fact that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between each unit or school with the Department of Youth is the basis for funding the various units;
- (e) does this MOU require regular meetings between all unit coordinators and the State Coordinator;
- (f) does the lack of meetings place funding in jeopardy;
- (g) is the Minister aware of concerns that the sequence of events seems to be part of a deliberate campaign to run down the Police Rangers program;
- (h) will the Minister assure this House that there is no agenda, either from within his department or from any other department, to close the program;
- (i) does the Minister acknowledge the valuable contribution made by ranger and cadet programs to the community;
- (j) if the Minister is not directly aware of the situation, will he make all necessary inquiries from his ministerial colleagues and provide a comprehensive answer to the above questions;
- (k) if not, why not; and
- (l) what is the current situation regarding all other cadet and ranger programs operating within the education system?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No
- (f) No.
- (g) No.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) Yes. The achievement of the Rossmoyne Senior High School CALM Bush Ranger unit in the recent WA Youth Awards highlights the success of the Cadets WA program and the valuable contribution cadets are making to the community.
- (j) Not applicable.
- (k) Not applicable.
- (l) The Cadets WA program continues to operate successfully, with 81% of units directly attached to a secondary school and 19% affiliated with a secondary school.