

SCHOOL CLEANING

**142. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer the minister to her decision to require all school cleaning to be undertaken in-house.

- (1) Given that an independent audit has indicated that these changes will cost an extra \$100 million over the next four years, what is the minister's anticipated extra cost of these new arrangements per annum?
- (2) Will the Department of Education and Training meet the additional costs or will each school be required to do so?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)-(2) I have not seen the audit that suggests that it will cost an extra \$100 million to bring cleaning in-house. I think that this is just a bit of scaremongering. I would like to see how independent the independent audit really is. I would also like to see who commissioned this independent audit.

**Hon Barry House:** The government.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** I have not read the report of that audit. I would be very surprised if it is \$100 million.

Several members interjected.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** We are looking at the costs. The government has made a policy commitment, and we will honour that promise. For a long time I have had concerns about the quality of cleaning in government schools. In my view, schools have not been cleaned in all cases to an appropriate standard. Quite frankly, if I were a parent of a child attending a school, I would want the child to be in a nice and clean environment. It is beholden on every parent to want the absolute best for their children. Parents have expressed concern.

**Hon Kim Chance:** Parents from Esperance and Geraldton have written to me about it.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** Hon Kim Chance tells me that parents from Esperance and Geraldton have written to him. As education minister, it is my responsibility to ensure that students can learn in a clean and orderly environment.

**Hon Barry House:** Just answer the question: how much do you think it will cost and who is going to pay. That's the question.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** When I am ready to reveal the information, I will reveal the information. I want to say that \$100 million seems to be way out of whack.

**Hon Barry House:** What is in whack? Do you have a ballpark figure?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** I think the member opposite is involved in some scaremongering. He cannot accept that somebody has made a decision on this matter. Quite frankly, this matter needs to be bedded down and that is exactly what is happening. I intend to do it and I intend to do it with the minimum of fuss.