

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5939. Hon Shelley Archer to the Minister for Communities

I refer the Minister to the Report on the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, carried out by the Kulunga Research Network at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, and I draw the Minister's attention to Recommendation 6 of the Report, namely, 'Design and implement workforce and professional development programmes in the health, education, family and community sectors that allow staff to distinguish, design, select and implement development prevention programmes and services for Aboriginal children, families and communities', and I ask —

Will the Minister advise the House what progress has been made in respect of this recommendation?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

The State Government is currently negotiating with the Commonwealth Government a range of initiatives aimed at building an early childhood workforce which responds to the needs of children and families in general and Aboriginal children, families and communities in particular.

The Department of Health has recently developed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Framework that has a number of initiatives in it that will equip staff with the skills to distinguish, design, select and implement development prevention programmes and services for Aboriginal children, families and communities.

These will include training in cultural and diversity engagement and enhancement of recruitment and retention strategies which are specifically targeted towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Framework Action Plan is being developed to put these initiatives into practice with measurable targets and timeframes.