

REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES — CLOSURES

3308. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the announcement regarding the closure of remote communities and ask:

- (a) what consultation has taken place with residents in the communities listed for closure;
- (b) what consultation has taken place with the four Shires in the Kimberley in relation to the closure of communities within their shire boundary;
- (c) what role does the Aboriginal Lands Trust board have regarding the closure of communities;
- (d) what research, advice or information is the Government basing its claim on that closing remote indigenous communities will lead to improved outcomes for indigenous people; and
- (e) what criteria is the Government following to determine which communities to close and what assessment is the Government using to deem a community as non-viable?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

- (a)–(e) No decision has yet been made in relation to any particular community. The Government's emphasis is on identifying those communities which, with the correct investment decisions, will be able to provide acceptable standards of child care, health, education, housing and employment opportunities to their residents over time. The State Government will soon commence consultation with Aboriginal people, particularly those in remote communities, as well as other key stakeholders.