

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5937. 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. I draw the Minister's attention to Recommendation 4 of the Report, namely, 'Deliver evidence-based parent, infant and child care programmes in the family and community development sector designed to expand human capability generally and build human capital specifically in the child. Benefit is likely to be greatest where programmes, (a) simultaneously target both the child and the parent, (b) provide specific training (parenting, educational and vocation) to the parent, and (c) provide language and cognitive enrichment to the child', and I ask —

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

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I refer to responses to questions on notice 5934 and 5935 regarding current reforms being driven by the State Government in early childhood and which focus on Indigenous children, families and communities.

Through these reform processes the Government is looking at a range of parent, infant and child care initiatives which are evidence based and which simultaneously target both the child and the parent, provide specific training to the parent, and provide language and cognitive enrichment to the child. WA is already providing successful programs which meet these objectives. An example is the Best Start program, which operates in metropolitan, rural and remote locations across the State, and which targets school readiness of Aboriginal children. Through the State Early Childhood Agenda and the COAG reform processes we will be looking to build on these types of programs.