

ABORIGINAL YOUTH — STRATEGIC POLICY

980. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the answer provided by the minister to question without notice 772 on 31 October 2013 when the minister said that instead of developing a strategic policy on Aboriginal youth, his department is “mapping existing government activities and enabling youth-designed solutions”.

- (1) Can the minister explain how “mapping existing government activities” can possibly replace the development of a strategic policy?
- (2) In the absence of a strategy, what is the Aboriginal affairs cabinet subcommittee supposed to be delivering?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(2) The development of any good government response should include an environmental scan of existing activities to reduce duplication. As referred in the answer that I provided to question without notice 772, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs is undertaking the mapping of existing government activities to enable youth-designed solutions.

Hon Sally Talbot: That is because there are too many services.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am just giving the answer. Hon Sally Talbot might not agree with it. I think it is much more effective.

The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee, on instruction from the Aboriginal affairs cabinet subcommittee, has established an education subcommittee to focus on early childhood engagement and school attendance; a health and mental health subcommittee to focus on measures for early and youth health intervention —

Hon Sally Talbot interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Does the member want the answer or not?

It has established a family support and children subcommittee to focus on supporting the family unit, children and parenting. The work of these subcommittees will align improvement of health, education and employment outcomes and intervention points for Aboriginal youth.