

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5935. 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 2 of the Report, namely, 'Evaluate and test health, education, family and community development policy, programme and service implementation and content for evidence of its efficacy and effectiveness in promoting the development of Aboriginal children, families and their communities', 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 the response to question on notice 5934 regarding reform processes driven through the functional reviews of both Department for Indigenous Affairs and the Department for Community Development, the latter of which resulted in the creation of the new Department for Communities and Department for Child Protection.

The Department for Communities has responsibility for the whole of government Early Childhood Agenda, which incorporates community, health, and education agencies and strategies. This is in response to the Recommendation 3 of the Ford Report which recommended that the Department for Communities develop an early childhood agenda that is community focused and evidence based. The State Early Childhood Agenda, and the COAG early childhood and indigenous reform agendas, are all focused on promoting the development of Aboriginal children, families and their communities, and will be underpinned by a strong performance framework. This will enable ongoing reporting on the efficacy and effectiveness of policy, program and service implementation. The State Government, through Department for Indigenous Affairs, Department for Communities and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, is currently involved in negotiating the COAG agenda and implementation plans.