

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS**

*Petition*

Hon Barry House presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 83 persons -

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, respectfully commend to the attention of the House that:

- Successive State Governments have promised to fund non-government school students at a minimum of 25% of total real government school per pupil average cost.
- The 2002/3 State Budget shows that the total cost of educating 256947 government school students this year will be \$2257m. (\$8784 each, on average).
- The 108624 students in non-government schools will be allocated only \$170m. by the State in 2002/3 (\$1565 each, on average - i.e., only 17.8% of average government school per pupil cost).
- The additional cost in 2002/3 to provide these students with an amount at least equivalent to last year's allocation, which was 18.3% of government school per pupil cost, would be \$4.9m., or an extra \$45 each.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Western Australian Parliament will demand that the State urgently provides an additional \$4.9m. to the non-government sector in 2002/3, and urgently works towards allocating a further \$64m. per year which is needed to meet long-standing State commitments to provide non-government school students with an average level of State funding equivalent to at least 25% of the average real government school per pupil operating cost (i.e., \$2196 in 2002/3 - 25% of \$8784).

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper No 1024.]