

EDUCATION — FUNDING

**691. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Minister for Education:**

I refer to statements by the Premier in *The West Australian* that Western Australia has increased school funding by “an average of 8.5 per cent over the past four years” and that “WA was now spending an average \$14,211 per primary student and \$19,518 per high school student”.

- (1) Did the 8.5 per cent increase include capital works expenditure and Building the Education Revolution or other infrastructure funding provided by the commonwealth?
- (2) If yes to (1), what component of the 8.5 per cent increase can be attributed to commonwealth contributions as part of the Building the Education Revolution or any other commonwealth-funded program?
- (3) What amount, expressed in dollars, per student for each of the primary and high school average spending was sourced from the commonwealth?
- (4) Did the average spend per student in primary and high schools include allocations of funds from any department other than the Department of Education?
- (5) If yes to (4), which departments and what amount came from each department?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

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

- (1) The 8.5 per cent increase in expenditure does not include any capital works expenditure.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The average cost per student for full-time equivalent positions includes recurrent expenditure funded from all sources. The financial model used to calculate these average costs does not differentiate between state, commonwealth and other funding sources.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.