

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION STRATEGY 2010–2014

1022. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to question without notice 985.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the previous plan for Aboriginal education in public schools expired in 2008 and that through the entire life of the Barnett government, public schools have had no formal direction statement in Aboriginal education?
- (2) Can the minister also confirm that the Barnett government's Aboriginal education strategy, referred to on Tuesday, 23 November by the minister, has been with the minister since 2008?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) I can confirm that the state's previous plan for Aboriginal education in public schools expired in 2008. However, it is incorrect to suggest that there has been no formal direction in Aboriginal education in public schools. Corporate direction in Aboriginal education has been provided in the following planning documents: "Plan for Public Schools 2008–2011", "Department of Education Strategic Plan 2007–2009", "Focus 2009 Directions for Schools", "Focus 2010 Directions for Schools", and "Focus 2011 Directions for Schools". Western Australia led the development of the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education action plan 2010–2014, which was agreed by ministers at the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs on 15 April 2010 for implementation across all Australian states and jurisdictions.

In addition to this, corporate initiatives such as the Aboriginal attendance grants, the Aboriginal tuition assistance scheme, Follow the Dream: Partnerships for Success, Aboriginal Perspectives Across the Curriculum, Aboriginal primary high achievers program and online Aboriginal early childhood education resources has shaped Aboriginal education directions in this state.

A new plan has been under development, and will align with a range of relevant documents, including the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education plan 2010–2014, and associated National Partnership on Indigenous Early Childhood Development and National Partnership on Early Childhood Education (Universal Access) and aspects of the literacy and numeracy, teacher quality and low socioeconomic status school communities national partnerships. These need to be incorporated into the plan before it is finalised.

- (2) The Aboriginal education strategy, referred to on Tuesday, 23 November, has not been with the minister since 2008.