

SCHOOLS, SINGING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

416. Mr W.J. McNee to the Minister for Education

As Western Australia is part of a recognised Christian country, could the Minister advise if Education Department policy now precludes the singing of Christmas carols in schools on the grounds that it may upset people from other religions than Christian?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

The Department of Education's policy on Religious Education in Schools does not preclude the singing of Christmas carols in government schools. Such issues are decided at the school level by the principal in consultation with the school Council.

Clause 4.2 in the policy clearly reflects Section 68 (2) of the 1999 Education Act in stating:

Where the school has a School Council, the principal must consult the Council on a general policy concerning the use of prayers, songs and other materials based on religious, spiritual or moral values to be used in a school activity as part of general religious education.