

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5949. Hon Shelley Archer to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Housing and Works

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 16 of the Report, namely, 'Proactive 'Homemaker' type programmes should be available in a culturally appropriate manner to support parents developing home and financial management skills to reduce financial strain. Optimally, these should be developed and delivered in conjunction with the vocational and educational training sector', and I ask -

Will the Minister advise the House what progress has been made in respect of this recommendation?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

The Department of Housing and Works advises:

The Department of Housing and Works operates the In Home Practical Support Program which is a contemporary version of the "Homemaker Program". The program aims to improve the sustainability and longevity of Indigenous housing by developing the home living skills of Aboriginal people participating in the program. The IHPSP connects with other programs and services to deliver a joined up approach in addressing environmental health, community development and social issues.

The program focuses on developing families and individuals skills in order to manage and maintain a healthy living environment, covering areas such as clean and healthy living practices, family budgeting and knowledge of tenancy obligations to maintain a healthy home.

The program has been expanded in 2007/2008 to nine Aboriginal Organisations throughout the state located in Kununurra, Fitzroy Crossing, Derby, Broome, Bidyadanga, Port Hedland, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.