

NGALAPITA AND DJUGERARI REMOTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

643. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many children attend the remote community schools at Ngalapita and Djugerari?
- (2) Do those numbers vary at different times of the year—wet season and dry season—and; if so, by how much?
- (3) Are reports true that these two schools are closing?
- (4) If yes to (3), when will the schools cease functioning and what arrangements have been made for schooling these children, particularly in the wet season?
- (5) What other remote community schools in the Kimberley are closing and when?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) Ngalapita remote community school had an enrolment of 13 students at the semester 2 census. Since the August census, enrolment has increased to 31 students. Djugerari remote community school had an enrolment of 14 at the semester 2 census.
- (2) Numbers vary considerably between the wet and dry season. A flooded Fitzroy River can block access to the communities. Most families leave in December, returning in February to April. As with all remote schools in the Kimberley, funerals affect school numbers significantly from time to time. During these times enrolment at these two schools can range between two and five students.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) None.