

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

177.Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the government's commitment to develop Perth Modern School as a centre of academic excellence.

- (1) When will Perth Modern School become Western Australia's only fully selective school?
- (2) When will the proposed boarding facility be ready, and how many regional students will it accommodate?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Before I provide an answer, I want to put on record this government's outstanding achievement in education and training. Opposition members have the gall to laugh even though the government's \$3 billion education and training budget, of which \$1 billion will be spent on capital works, maintenance and school upgrades, is unprecedented in the history of this state. They can laugh all they like, but quite frankly history will record this government's achievement in the area of education and training as being absolutely unprecedented. The Gallop government will recreate the original Perth Modern School concept with a \$20 million program to re-establish Perth Modern as the state's premier school of academic excellence serving Western Australia's most brilliant high school students. Of that \$20 million, \$17 million will be spent on upgrades and \$3 million will be allocated over the four years for extra staff and resources. It gets better. The opposition crows about opportunity, but this is about opportunity and about giving students with high academic levels the ability to participate in the highest quality of education available. I want to put on record that, with respect to the government's fantastic achievement in this area, an \$8 million residential college will be built in order to house students, particularly those who come from regional areas. I am pleased that I have been able put that on the record. I now turn to the specifics of the question. Members opposite should not be impatient.

- (1) The first intake of year 8 students will occur in 2007. Full population of years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be achieved by 2011. There will be a small, limited local intake.
- (2) Current planning is for the facility to be ready, at least in part, for the commencement of 2007. Ultimately, at least 100 regional students - Hon Paddy Embry might want to listen to this given that he represents a regional area - will be accommodated in the facility. The initial intake is yet to be determined.