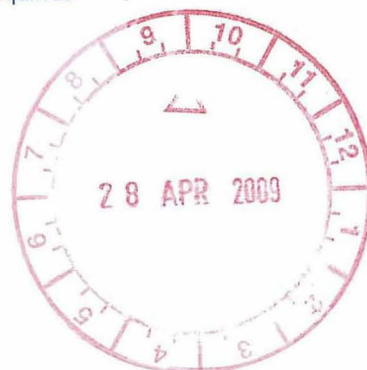




Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Education and Training**

Your ref :
Our ref : D09/0183495
Enquiries :

PUBLIC



Ms Renae Jewell
Committee Clerk
Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Renae

Dear ~~Ms~~ Jewell

During the Director General, Department of Education and Training, Ms Sharyn O'Neill's appearance before the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, on Monday, 30 March 2009, she made a commitment to address a question on notice.

The question related to the provision of statistics on the number of young people who the Department has trouble in engaging or who we know are not participating in education, training or employment (Q.1 <006> I/A). I provide, attached to this letter, information relating to the number of 16 and 17 year olds who have proved most difficult to engage.

I trust you will find that this satisfies the request of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Peter McCaffrey

PETER McCAFFREY
A/DIRECTOR GENERAL

23 APR 2009

Att.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

**THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS INQUIRING INTO BALGA WORKS:
NON-PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION, TRAINING AND/OR EMPLOYMENT BY
16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS.**

BACKGROUND

There are two significant groups who are considered most at risk in the sixteen and seventeen year old age groups. This data was taken at the Department's August 2008 Census. They are:

- *approximately 500* Refusal to engage; and
- *approximately 1 400* Un-lodged or in transition between Notices of Arrangements.

CURRENT SITUATION

The 1 900 often display multiple risk factors and barriers to engagement in education, training and employment. These include:

- family dysfunction;
- homelessness;
- history of sexual, physical and emotional abuse;
- intergenerational poverty, unemployment and little value placed on education in the family;
- dependency on and abuse of alcohol and other drugs;
- mental illness;
- crime, justice involvement and periods of detention;
- isolation and transiency;
- poor literacy and numeracy;
- alienation and disaffection from school and the wider community; and
- a significant group of Aboriginal boys in remote and metropolitan communities.

While these most at risk young people are spread throughout the State there is a tendency for them to cluster. Swan Education District has high concentrations in certain suburbs such as Balga, Girrawheen, Mirrabooka and Beechboro.

Below is a snapshot of highly at risk 16 and 17 year olds being provided intensive, individualised support by Participation Coordinators, by education district - March 2009.

District	High
All Districts	441
ALBANY	39
BUNBURY	13
CANNING	50
ESPERANCE	27
FREMANTLE-PEEL	36
GOLDFIELDS	32
KIMBERLEY	56
MID WEST	37
MIDLANDS	25
NARROGIN	5
PILBARA	9
SWAN	29
WARREN-BLACKWOOD	26
WEST COAST	55