

**PUBLIC**

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL)**

**INQUIRY INTO THE REMOVAL OF YEAR  
11 AND 12 IN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS**

*Submission to the Inquiry*

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## General Background

Gingin District High School is currently a Kindergarten to Year 12 school. The school was founded on its current site in 1958 as a Primary school, and has developed significantly over the years. The Gingin Community has always had a strong commitment to education, with community support for a local school going back to the 1890's.

The school currently has an enrolment of 465, including 29 students in Year 11 and 12. The school's catchment area is very large (over 5,000 square kilometres) and includes the communities of Lancelin, Guilderton, Woodridge, Redfield Park, Sovereign Hill, Gabbadah, Gingin, Bindoon and Wannamal. Our catchment area extends south almost as far as Muchea, and North almost as far as Cataby Road House. About 80% of the students enrolled at school travel to school by bus. Many bus trips exceed one hour in length, with some - including the bus trip from Lancelin - being one and a half hours each way.

The community has long supported a Year 11 and 12 program at the school, with correspondence to the local District Office going back at least ten years. The school established a Vocational Education and Training (VET) program about eight years ago, commencing with only a small number of students. Since then, the number of students attending the school has increased each year. Most students study through the School Of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE), although the school does run programs at school where we have sufficient demand to make it viable. In 2010, Gingin District High School offers English 1A and 1B, and Materials Design and Technology (Woodwork) 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D. The table below shows the number of students enrolled in year 11 and 12 for the past four years.

School Year	Number of Students enrolled		Total Number
	Year 11	Year 12	
2007	7	11	18
2008	13	7	20
2009	14	7	21
2010	16	13	29

**TABLE 1:** *Enrolment in Year 11 and 12 over the past four years at Gingin District High School*

Appendix 1 shows the geographical location of current Year 10 students, and Appendix 2 shows the geographical location of students currently enrolled in Years 11 and 12. Students who have enrolled in Years 11 and 12 are frequently a long way from the school and spend a significant part of their day travelling to and from the school.

## **Planning and resourcing for Year 11 and 12 at Gingin District High School**

The school is resourced for Year 11 and 12 through the school grant, and through FTE funding for enrolments. The school received a grant from the Participation Directorate at West Coast District Education Office in 2009 to enhance infrastructure for SIDE students.

In 2010, the school receives approximately 2.2 FTE based on enrolments in Year 11 and 12, plus an additional 1.2 FTE through the Senior School Allocation. The school receives a total of 33 FTE for Kindergarten to Year 12.

In the past several years, Gingin District High School has allocated a great deal of money and resources towards the Year 11 and 12 program. The school has allocated the following staffing and funding decisions to the program for 2009 / 2010:

- We have reconfigured the school leadership team to have one full time Deputy Principal dedicated to supporting students in Years 10 - 12, including Structured Workplace Learning and SIDE.
- We have provided one teacher with 0.6 FTE release time to coordinate and supervise students studying through SIDE.
- An additional full-time Education Assistant is made available for students studying through SIDE.
- The school has funded infrastructure improvements to electrical supply and power points (approximately \$3000) in order to facilitate student computer access in 2009.
- The school purchased additional computers in 2009, so that students are able to have individual access to a computer to facilitate studies.
- The school funded the installation of additional computer access points and a switch box.
- The school funded furniture upgrades to the SIDE room, so that each student has a study carrel and gas-lift chair.

## **Past Outcomes from Year 11 and 12 - Gingin District High School**

Outcomes for Year 11 and 12 students studying at Gingin District High School have been good. In 2009, the students achieved the following outcomes:

- One hundred per cent of students leaving Year 12 achieved either a WACE graduation, or an AQF qualification.
- The 2008 School Captain was awarded the Prime Ministers Award for Vocational Education and training - a national award recognising excellence in vocational students;
- A student at the school won the Edith Cowan University Citizenship award for studies through SIDE;
- The staff at the school won a Teaching Award for a drug education forum that was held in 2008;
- Six students attended Senior Country Week with the SIDE teams in 2009, and acquitted themselves well.

## Issues relating to changes in the provision of Year 11 and 12 at Gingin District High School

Changes to the delivery of Year 11 and 12 programs at Gingin District High School will have a range of consequences, depending on the nature of decisions that are taken in relation to the program. Any changes to resourcing will mean that decisions will need to be made in relation to the subjects that are offered, the delivery modes, and the quality of the support that is provided for students on site.

In the event of loss of the Senior School Allocation, this will reduce the courses that the school is able to offer. Although the school currently receives staffing for enrolments of students, there is consideration to charging schools for SIDE enrolments. In this event, the school may need to take FTE from other programs - such as electives in lower secondary, or reduced support in the primary school.

Where possible, we prefer to offer as many subjects on site, with a face-to-face teacher, as we can. Any reduction in resources prevents us from doing this.

We are concerned particularly that marginally engaged students may not take full advantage of educational opportunities presented if the quality of the program is reduced.

APPENDIX 1: Geographical location of 2010 Year 10 students



