

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C825

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE
(Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 12 August 2014

Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Education.

I refer to public comments by the Minister for Child Protection that the issue of payment of school fees for children in the care of the state remains "unsettled," and I ask:

1. What documentation did the Department for Education have to lead it to believe that in fact that the Department for Child Protection's final position was they would no longer pay voluntary school fees for the 2,300 kids in its care?
2. Will the Minister table that documentation, if not why not?
3. What was the most recent advice, as at 4 August 2014, from the Department of Child Protection to the Department of Education in respect to payment of school fees?
4. Will the Minister table that advice, if not why not?

I thank the Hon Member for some notice of this question.

1. A letter, dated 10 February 2014, from Mr Terry Murphy, Director General, Department for Child Protection and Family Support informing the Department of Education of the intention to cease paying voluntary contributions to schools for students in care.
2. Yes.
3. Refer to 1.
4. Not applicable.



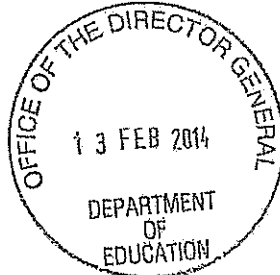
Minister for Education



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Child Protection**

Your ref:
Our ref: 2014/28
Enquiries: Audrey Lee 9222 2658

Ms Sharyn O'Neill
Director General
Department of Education
151 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004



Dear Sharyn

Voluntary school fee contributions for children in the care of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's Chief Executive Officer

The Department of Education currently requests voluntary contributions towards the cost of materials, services and facilities used by students enrolled in kindergarten to year 10.

While the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) remains committed to supporting children in care to meet their academic potential, it is the Department's intention to cease paying voluntary school fee contributions to schools from the start of 2014.

As part of your agency's commitment to the Rapid Response Framework to prioritise services and supports to children and young people in care, it is requested that the Department of Education supports the non-payment of voluntary contributions for children in care enrolled in kindergarten to year 10 by advising school principals of the proposed changes.

Should you require further information in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Audrey Lee, Director Child Protection and Children and Young People in Care Policy on 9222 2658 or email: Audrey.Lee@cpfs.wa.gov.au, and of course I would be prepared to discuss this with you personally.

Yours sincerely

Terry Murphy
DIRECTOR GENERAL

10 February 2014