

**EDUCATION RESOURCES — MANDURAH-PEEL**

*Statement by Member for Mandurah*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah)** [12.56 pm]: I rise to express to this Parliament and to the Barnett government my disgust at this government's savage cuts to education and wish to outline how those cuts will impact on the numerous schools in my electorate of Mandurah and in the wider Mandurah-Peel area. It is estimated that nearly \$2 million will be ripped from my local Mandurah schools alone, primary and secondary—schools that have many students with support needs, and schools that will now have cuts to staff, including teacher numbers and education assistant hours. A similar amount will be slashed from the schools in the member for Dawesville's electorate and in the Murray area, but those members remain silent about these savage cuts.

Over \$400 000 will be slashed from John Tonkin College and over \$300 000 from Coodanup Community College. This is outrageous, because both these schools need more funding for programs tailored for students in need of extra support, not less. I want to highlight particularly the impact that these cuts will have on programs at John Tonkin College. A number of innovative programs, some of which have been operating effectively and with fantastic outcomes for a number of years, will be slashed as a result of the Barnett government's savage cuts to education. One of these programs is the highly revered and outstanding Mandurah State Emergency Services cadet program. This program has, for over 26 years, seen over 6 000 young people trained and mentored in skills associated with emergency services training. Many of our young people, some with learning difficulties and/or behaviour problems, have benefited from this program. This program has been delivered by a dedicated group, including remarkable volunteers from the Mandurah SES unit. The fact that this outstanding program is poised to be a victim of these savage education cuts is totally unacceptable and highlights how out of touch the Premier and his government are with the needs of my local schools. I salute the volunteers involved with this program and urge the government to ensure that the Mandurah SES cadet program, with its outstanding track record, continues at John Tonkin College next year and beyond.