

TEMPORARY PROTECTION VISA PROGRAM, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES
601. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Education Department provide any English as a Second Language classes for children or unaccompanied minors who are resident in Western Australia under the Temporary Protection Visa Programme?
- (2) Does the Education Department receive any funding to provide English as a Second Language classes at Intensive Language Centres for children or unaccompanied minors who are in Western Australia under the Temporary Protection Visa Programme?
- (3) If not, what steps have been taken to provide classes in English for this group and to obtain funding from the Federal Government?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Education Department does not provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for children or unaccompanied minors on a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) in Intensive Language Centres (ILCs).
- (2) No funding is made available from the Commonwealth for ESL classes in ILCs for children or unaccompanied minors on a TPV.
- (3) Students or unaccompanied minors in Western Australia under the TPV, are eligible to enrol in mainstream Government schools. The teachers of these students are able to access specialised ESL professional development and curriculum design/implementation support through the ESL Curriculum Support Officers in Central Office. They are also able to borrow and utilise teaching materials from the comprehensive collection of classroom support materials held at the ESL Resource Centre. These materials are designed to facilitate second language acquisition and can be couriered to the school site. The Education Department has collaborated with the Office of Multicultural Interests in the preparation of a paper on Funding for ILCs. This paper was presented at a recent meeting of the Standing Committee of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. It outlines the case for a review of Commonwealth funding for holders of temporary visas in order to permit their entry into ILCs. A review is being undertaken regarding the provision of ESL to temporary visa holders to identify possible strategies to be developed to permit increased access for these students into Intensive Language Centres.