

SCHOOLS — TEACHER WELLBEING

654. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I acknowledge Alan and Erica Andersson in the gallery. They have served the state very well over many years. I say thank you to them.

I refer to recent reports, including the Productivity Commission's report on the National School Reform Agreement.

- (1) With 61 per cent of the educators who responded saying that their reason for considering leaving was that the job was too stressful, impacting their wellbeing and mental health, what support does the Department of Education offer to teachers who are impacted by mental health issues?
- (2) Is there an increase in the number of teachers seeking help for their mental health?
- (3) What resources does the Department of Education provide to support teachers who are suffering because of their classroom work?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

- (1)–(3) I am not so sure about the premise of the last part of the member's question—that they are suffering because of their classroom work. Teachers have a very demanding job; that is understood. The Cook government has provided them support by increasing the budget on education to over \$6 billion for the first time; \$6.4 billion now goes to creating a world-class public education system. That, of course, helps our teachers in the classroom.

For specific support for teachers' wellbeing, the department has dedicated employees who deal with the wellbeing of its staff. In the independent public schools system, which was put in place by Hon Peter Collier and continued and improved under the McGowan and Cook governments, each principal also has responsibility for ensuring that the wellbeing of their staff is looked after. They are there to provide leadership and support for their staff.

We continue to monitor the situation of demand from teachers. That is why I have instigated a red-tape review, which should be coming to me very shortly. Teachers and principals constantly tell me that the amount of administrative red tape they deal with is taking them away from the enjoyment of the profession.