

SCHOOLS, PER-PUPIL FUNDING

741. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education:

I have three questions and I would ask whether the parliamentary secretary might table the appropriate answers. In relation to the amount of government funding provided for students at non-government catholic schools, I ask -

- (1) Does the Government agree that parents who choose non-government school education for their children should be entitled to a higher level of funding per child than the present rate?
- (2) Is it acceptable that non-government catholic schools, which operate at approximately 85 per cent of government school costs, receive less funding per student than those at government schools?

Hon G.T. GIFFARD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I indicate that I am happy to table the answers now.

- (1) The State Government's policy is to maintain average per capita subsidies to non-government schools at 25 per cent of the average government school recurrent cost.
- (2) Non-government schools are subsidised on the basis of the AGSRC and school or system-wide needs, regardless of their comparison with day-to-day operational costs of government schools.

[See paper No 889.]