

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Petition

Mr P.D. Omodei presented the following petition bearing the signatures of eight persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

Non-Government Schools, funding - Warren Blackwood

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, respectfully commend to the attention of the House that:

- Successive State Governments have promised to fund non-government school students at a minimum of 25% of total real government school per pupil average cost.
- The 2002/3 State Budget shows that the total cost of education 256947 government school students this year will be \$2257m (\$8784 each, on average).
- The 108624 students in non-government schools will be allocated only \$170m. by the State in 2002/3 (1565 each, on average - ie only 17.8% of average government school per pupil cost).
- The additional cost in 2002/3 to provide these students with an amount at least equivalent to last year's allocation, which was 18.3% of government school per pupil cost, would be 4.9m., or an extra \$45 each.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Western Australian Parliament will demand that the State urgently provides an additional \$4.9m. to the non-government sector in 2002/3, and urgently works towards allocating a further \$64m. per year which is needed to meet long-standing State commitments to provide non-government school students with an average level of State funding equivalent to at least 25% of the average real government school per pupil operating cost (ie \$2196 in 2002/3 - 25% of \$8784).

[See petition No 196.]