

SCHOOLS — ABORIGINAL STUDENTS — ATTENDANCE

**180. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to verbal reports by local leaders and schoolteachers that school attendance among Aboriginal children has dropped significantly since the onset of the COVID crisis. Concerns exist that this trend will exacerbate future disadvantage.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the reports of reduced school attendance?
- (2) What is the average attendance rate for students in each year cohort, K–12, in the following locations in the years 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2021 —
  - (a) Halls Creek;
  - (b) Fitzroy Crossing;
  - (c) Wyndham;
  - (d) Derby; and
  - (e) Kununurra?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In 2020, the Kimberley region received additional funding to support the re-engagement of students. Attendance data for 2021 is not provided, as the semester has not been completed. The Department of Education's data verification processes are not commenced until term 3. Attendance data for 2016 to 2020 is provided for semester 1 each year, in accordance with the national standards for student attendance data reporting. The data in 2019 was affected by an early and particularly severe flu season. The data in 2020 was severely affected by COVID-19, particularly in weeks 7 to 10 of term 1. Two datasets are provided for 2020: actual, which includes all weeks of semester 1, and adjusted, which excludes weeks 7 to 10 of term 1. By way of background, there has been an agreement at a national level about how we will record our data and there has been some debate. I am quite happy for all of Western Australia's data to be out there, because WA has been one of the best in Australia during the pandemic. There is a debate nationally about what the data that is made public looks like. As the information is provided in tabular form, I seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

[Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.]

**Halls Creek District High School**

Year Level	2016	2019	2020 (actual)	2020 (adjusted)
K	52.7	76.4	52.9	59.2
P	64.3	56.8	60.4	67.0
1	75.3	57.3	54.4	59.2
2	70.1	61.5	53.5	59.2
3	64.2	63.6	54.3	59.6
4	70.5	64.8	53.1	57.1
5	65.7	60.2	53.0	57.3
6	59.6	63.2	59.2	63.5
7	58.2	50.9	42.7	45.8
8	48.9	55.4	37.8	42.3
9	41.6	38.0	33.0	34.6
10	28.5	38.8	19.7	21.8
11	40.5	39.8	25.5	28.3
12	40.5	41.5	29.1	32.7

**Fitzroy Valley District High School**

Year Level	2016	2019	2020 (actual)	2020 (adjusted)
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**Extract from *Hansard***  
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K	75.7	78.3	56.3	63.2
P	72.5	63.7	59.1	67.1
1	60.7	67.2	50.6	57.2
2	73.4	76.5	56.3	63.3
3	74.1	72.6	62.6	68.9
4	68.8	66.6	59.1	67.7
5	72.1	62.3	56.3	62.3
6	62.5	56.9	56.5	62.2
7	61.2	55.4	47.8	55.6
8	58.8	41.6	34.9	41.9
9	47.0	39.3	32.1	37.5
10	38.7	28.0	29.1	34.1
11	54.5	33.3	24.1	29.1
12	54.5	24.6	24.9	31.4

**Wyndham District High School**

Year Level	2016	2019	2020 (actual)	2020 (adjusted)
K	66.4	55.6	43.6	46.9
P	70.1	70.8	57.2	67.3
1	74.1	73.7	82.2	83.9
2	80.9	81.3	70.3	73.9
3	83.1	79.2	76.9	84.2
4	76.6	81.2	76.2	80.0
5	88.4	89.6	78.8	82.5
6	70.3	86.2	81.9	87.9
7	82.7	80.4	70.8	77.0
8	80.2	75.6	65.6	68.9
9	74.1	56.2	65.0	70.6
10	51.3	32.3	46.7	50.1
11	64.6	43.5	31.1	31.8
12	87.9	29.4	45.9	48.2

**Derby District High School**

Year Level	2016	2019	2020 (actual)	2020 (adjusted)
K	72.2	71.5	60.1	65.4
P	64.8	70.0	62.1	66.8
1	70.6	70.8	60.1	65.7
2	70.3	63.4	63.5	68.8
3	74.9	72.4	55.2	62.0
4	66.7	70.7	64.3	70.5
5	72.2	74.2	57.6	62.6
6	75.7	74.2	62.5	68.4
7	70.5	64.4	58.5	64.1
8	64.5	68.3	53.3	59.1
9	60.4	56.1	57.6	63.2
10	48.0	55.8	43.3	47.9
11	50.3	40.7	45.5	50.3
12	62.0	34.8	55.2	59.1

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**East Kimberley College**

<b>Year Level</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 (actual)</b>	<b>2020 (adjusted)</b>
K	82.7	84.4	72.8	78.4
P	86.3	77.1	74.6	81.0
1	76.6	85.0	66.9	72.1
2	81.8	86.2	74.8	80.4
3	83.3	87.9	74.6	80.1
4	82.5	76.4	72.4	77.6
5	81.9	84.8	69.9	75.4
6	80.3	82.6	72.1	77.5
7	73.0	77.7	75.7	81.6
8	65.8	71.5	66.8	73.0
9	52.5	75.7	61.0	67.4
10	71.3	58.9	61.6	66.6
11	60.8	76.5	60.7	64.6
12	80.3	75.5	69.8	75.2