

COLLIE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

1900. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Education

Regarding the speculation that Collie Senior High School will experience a reduction from 3 to 1 Special Needs Education teachers next year, I ask:

- (a) is it true that the school is reducing the number of Special Education Teachers next year;
- (b) if yes to (a), is this because of a decreasing number of students that are classified as 'special needs';
- (c) if yes to (a), is this because there is a predicted decrease in the number of 'special needs' students coming from the feeder Primary Schools;
- (d) is it true that the majority of students classified as being 'special needs' will be taught in mainstream classes in the future at Collie Senior High School;
- (e) why is Collie Senior High School prepared to lose the expertise of trained and experienced teachers when statistics show that the incidence of disabilities, like Autism, is increasing markedly in the population; and
- (f) is it true that the cut-off figure for children to be placed into specialised classes for students with special needs is for those having an Intelligence Quotient of 65.5 and below?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (a)-(d) Yes
- (e) Collie Senior High School has the capacity, through its experienced teachers, to cater for the decreased number of special needs students it enrolls.
- (f) No. A child may be able to access educational assistance if they fall below the Intelligence Quotient of 69.