

SCHOOLS — AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

**649. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:**

I refer to the current long wait times for Department of Communities' child psychologists to confirm a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, leaving students with a forthcoming ASD diagnosis at mainstream schools with few options for support. Students are reportedly working from desks in school sick bays, in school offices, if they cannot cope in the class environment.

- (1) Is the minister aware that children are forced to work from the school office, sometimes in the sick bay area, as they cannot be supported in class while they await funding?
- (2) Will the minister consider providing emergency funding with a fast turnaround to schools that are experiencing long delays and cannot support students to learn?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) No.
- (2) The Department of Education already provides interim funding for students who are on a waitlist for assessment of autism spectrum disorder. This allocation is provided if a letter from the assessing practitioner or government agency confirms that they have been accepted for an ASD assessment, are on the waitlist for an ASD assessment or have an ASD assessment scheduled.