

SCHOOL FEES AND SCHOOL PER CAPITA GRANT

511. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education:

This question was forwarded on 17 August; it is a question without notice of which some notice has been given. What amount of money would be required to increase the school per capita grant to offset the loss of school fees in primary schools at \$49 a year per child and in high schools at \$235 a year per child?

Hon G.T. GIFFARD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

It should be noted that there is no direct correlation between school fees and the school per capita grant. The Department of Education advises that information on the level of school fees collected is held at the school level and no differentiation is made by schools when recording the value of the contributions or the extra cost options; a precise figure is unavailable. On the assumption that every student paid the contribution, the loss of revenue to schools if the contribution was not collected is estimated by the department to be \$6.9 million for primary school children, including preprimary students; and \$16 million for high school students, which includes years 11 and 12 students and excludes current levels of secondary assistance payments of \$4.2 million.