

SCHOOLS — ABORIGINAL STUDENTS — ATTENDANCE

**34. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister direct the department to follow up non-attendance with families and students by engaging with them, rather than the recent trend of a phone call?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has some history with the education system through people in his family, so I think he would know that most schools are trying to do that. Most schools are trying to engage with their communities, particularly those in challenging environments. They will continue to do that. The education department will support them when it needs to support them. We will engage with other agencies to try to ensure that children who should be going to school are attending school. I repeat: the number one responsibility for that still rests with the families.

**The SPEAKER:** That concludes question time.