

CURRICULUM COUNCIL ACT - REVIEW

**238. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

I refer to the requirements for the Curriculum Council Act 1997 to be reviewed after five years of operation and for a report to be tabled in Parliament following the review. I also refer to comments in *Hansard* by the former CEO of the Curriculum Council, Mrs Norma Jeffery, on 21 May 2003 when she said -

We hope that the review will be completed within six months.

It is now 2006 and no report has been tabled. Why did the Premier fail to complete this review and table a report before Parliament, as required by the act, during his time as Minister for Education from 16 February 2001 to 26 February 2005?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Under section 36 of the Curriculum Council Act 1997, the minister is to carry out a review of the act as soon as is practicable after the expiry of five years from its commencement, and a report based on its review is to be tabled in both houses of Parliament. In the course of the review, the minister is to consider and have regard to a range of matters. The Curriculum Council commenced a review of the act in 2002. However, the review process was not completed as a result of the uncertainty from the recommendations of the Machinery of Government Taskforce report and the report of the review of the efficient delivery of government priorities. The machinery of government report of June 2001 recommended that the Curriculum Council continue as an independent statutory authority. The review of efficient delivery of the government priorities reported in December 2002 and recommended that all agencies in the education portfolio, including the Curriculum Council, be amalgamated into one department. The departments of education and training were amalgamated in 2003. The Curriculum Council comprises representatives of the Department of Education and Training, the Catholic Education Commission, the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia, universities, the State School Teachers' Union of WA, parents, industry and the community. It has been decided that the Curriculum Council will continue as an independent statutory authority to ensure that it remains representative of all education stakeholders. Following the resolution of this issue, the review of the Curriculum Council Act recommenced in late 2005. To ensure independence, the minister shifted conduct of the review from the Curriculum Council to the Department of Education Services. Feedback from stakeholders will be considered in the course of the review. It is anticipated that a draft report will be available to the minister by the end of June 2006.