

MERREDIN, SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS

**896. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Education and Training:**

The “2002 Western Australian Drowning Report” states that 48 per cent of drownings occurred in rural or remote areas.

- (1) Is the minister aware that there is a problem with a lack of swimming instructors in the town of Merredin, resulting in swimming lessons for preprimary to year 3 students being cancelled in term 4 this year?
- (2) If so, can the minister advise what plans are in progress to ensure that the predicted cancellation of lessons across even more students in 2006 will not occur?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Education and Training will continue to liaise with local Merredin schools on this matter. A course for swimming instructors is being held in Merredin this term. As a result, more local residents should be qualified as swimming instructors and available in 2006. Together with training providers, the department will also review training courses in country areas to ensure courses are scheduled to maximise the opportunity for local residents to qualify as swimming instructors.

We are on to it.