

KOOLBARDI PRESCHOOL, COLLIE — BUS DRIVER FUNDING

3686. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Education

Koolbardi Pre-School is an Aboriginal school in Collie that supports Aboriginal children and has a school bus appended to the school. I am informed that there is no funding for a bus driver and the bus is not used to pick children up or take them home from school. The school is using the bus on a limited basis to transport children with disabilities to after-school activity programs. In relation to these matters, I ask:

- (a) who provided the funding for the school bus;
- (b) given that the Education Minister has advised the Education Department not to allocate funding for bus drivers to schools, who is responsible for providing a driver and paying the wages of the driver of a school bus;
- (c) how are the children getting to and from school;
- (d) if there is currently no bus driver, who is driving the bus on a limited basis to transport children with disabilities to after-school activity programs; and
- (e) what will happen to the bus when Koolbardi relocates to Amaroo School in late 2010?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (a) Amaroo Primary School received a 14 seater Toyota Commuter in May 2009 as a replacement for their existing leased bus. The Department of Education pays the cost of the lease.
- (b) As was pointed out to the Member on 22 June 2010, the Department of Education does not allocate funding directly for bus drivers, but this is not as a result of any advice I have given to the Department. However, for 2010, the Department approved an Aboriginal Islander Education Officer (AIEO) 0.50 FTE for the Koolbardi Aboriginal Kindergarten. Transporting students can be amongst the range of duties undertaken by the AIEO.
- (c) Children attending the Koolbardi Kindergarten are transported to and from the kindergarten on the school bus and/or by private arrangements.
- (d) See (b) above.
- (e) Arrangements in relation to the relocation of the Koolbardi Kindergarten to Amaroo Primary School, including transport arrangements, are currently under consideration. It is expected that the arrangements and funding for 2011 will be finalised by the end of 2010.