

PRIMARY SCHOOLS, GERALDTON AND GREENOUGH

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

Given that Geraldton and Greenough are rapidly growing areas -

- (1) Will the minister confirm that there are no places for four-year-old children in three out of four schools in the southern cluster?
- (2) Are there plans to increase the number of places in other schools in the southern cluster?
- (3) If yes to (2), what are they?
- (4) Is the minister aware that parents are choosing the private school option, although they cannot afford it, rather than sending their children to Rangeway Primary School?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No. Two of the four public schools within the southern part of Geraldton have vacancies.
- (2)-(3) Although the government's commitment to guarantee kindergarten and preprimary places within the local areas is currently being met, the availability of places is monitored regularly. A local area education planning process is under way to identify the needs of the southern residential areas of Geraldton and Dongara.
- (4) I am not aware of any specific cases.