

NATIONAL SCHOOLING AGREEMENT

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

I gave the minister notice of my question yesterday. I refer to the signing of the national schooling agreement by the minister this week in return for \$1.06 billion over four years.

- (1) How much funding will be allocated to areas of education in regional Western Australia and how much will be allocated to education in metropolitan schools?
- (2) Which schools in regional WA will benefit from the injection of funds?
- (3) How will the funding be spent in regional schools?
- (4) When is the funding likely to be given to schools in regional WA?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(4) The main element of the federal government's funding package is for general purposes such as school running costs and salaries. It is not allocated for specific schools or regions. The component related to specific purpose programs is generally allocated on a needs basis, which is assessed each year. As the circumstances of individual schools are constantly changing, specific allocations are not made in advance over the life of the agreement. If the honourable member wants to ask me for some information in relation to specific schools, I am happy to get that information and provide it to him. In terms of untangling the funding from the commonwealth as a proportion of the state contribution to the education budget and then working out the actual allocation for regional versus rural versus metropolitan schools, that would be a very difficult thing to do. For a start, we do not organise things on a regional rural basis. I am happy to get the department to provide the member with a briefing.