

PUBLIC SCHOOLS — *FACING THE FACTS:*
A REVIEW OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

835. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the release of the *Facing the facts: A review of public education in Western Australia* report and its finding 2.1, which revealed that public school funding in WA has been cut in real terms, and note comments from Dr Carmen Lawrence herself that “public schools have been starved of funds”. Is the Minister for Education considering an increase to funding to public schools in the next state budget?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

If we look at funding for Western Australia compared with the case in other states, it can be seen that we fund our public schools at 75 per cent of the Gonski index, which is as high as every single jurisdiction, I think, bar the Australian Capital Territory. We had a budget of over \$6 billion as \$6.4 billion was put into education, which included \$1.5 billion on capital works. We increased funding for the support of students with complex needs who have not received a diagnosis. We are funding our schools at record levels, and we will continue to do so. Just watch this space because we have a great and positive educational program going forward.