

SCHOOLS — ABORIGINAL STUDENTS — ATTENDANCE

1169. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the recent court case involving Mr Burston, an officer from the Department of Education who works in the Kimberley.

- (1) Was the data on school attendance for the Kimberley provided in answer to my parliamentary question of 27 May 2021 accurate and correct; and —
 - (a) if not, why not, and will the minister correct the record in Parliament?
- (2) Noting the proceedings of the court, why has the department provided the minister with false data on school attendance in the past?
- (3) Now that the minister is aware of the practice of incorrect data being provided, will the minister refer the matter to the Ombudsman and the Public Sector Commissioner for independent review?
- (4) Has the minister taken any other action on this matter?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) Not applicable.
- (2) I do not accept the premise of the question. The data had not been quality assured by the Department of Education's system and school performance directorate.
- (3) There is no "practice of incorrect data being provided"; there was an incident. The department is undertaking its own investigation into this matter. I will await the outcome of that process before considering what further action may be required.
- (4) Yes, I have spoken to the director general and outlined my expectations.