

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS**

*Petition*

Mr P.D. Omodei presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 19 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, respectfully commend to the attention of the House that: -

- . Successive State Governments have promised to fund non-government school students at a minimum of 25% of total real government school per pupil average cost
- . The 2002/3 State Budget shows that the total cost of education of 256,947 government school students this year will be \$2257m (\$8784 each, on average)
- . The 108,624 students in non-government schools will be allocated only \$170m by the State in 2002/3 (1565 each, on average - ie only 17.8% of average government school per pupil cost)
- . The additional cost in 2002/03 to provide these students with an amount at least equivalent to last year's allocation, which was 18.3% of government school per pupil cost, would be 4.9m., or an extra \$45 each.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Western Australian Legislative Assembly will demand that the State urgently provides an additional \$4.9m to the non-government sector in 2002/3, and urgently works towards allocating a further \$64m per year, which is needed to meet long-standing State commitments to provide non-government school students with an average level of State funding equivalent to at least 25% of the average real government school per pupil operating cost (ie \$2196 in 2002/3 - 25% of \$8784)

[See petition No 178.]

The SPEAKER: A change was made a couple of years ago in relation to the tabling of petitions. It does not make a huge difference, but members are no longer required to certify their petitions; the Clerk certifies petitions.