

CORONAVIRUS — SCHOOLS — VENTILATION

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

- (1) Has a COVID ventilation audit been undertaken for all schools and classrooms across the state; and, if not, why not?
- (2) How many schools and classrooms had inadequate COVID ventilation?
- (3) Of those in (2), how many have been rectified and how many are awaiting rectification?
- (4) When does the minister expect this work to be completed?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The approach to reviewing ventilation in schools is currently being considered based on health advice.
- (2)–(3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee has asked states to consider ventilation when they are considering how we move forward with schools. Western Australia is considering that. I think it is useful to note, when we look to the eastern states, that New South Wales has done one thing and Victoria has done another thing. New South Wales is not going with ventilation filters; Victoria is. We will consider that and we will also get our own advice on the best way to handle it in Western Australia. It is also in some part dependent on the existing building construction. The member can appreciate that some schools are designed in a particular way. There is a variation of that. We have to take into account the design of the school, the type of the air conditioner that applies and whether windows can be opened. All those things are currently being considered.