

## HOME-BASED REMOTE STUDENTS

**66. Mr G.A. WOODHAMS to the minister representing the Minister for Education and Training:**

Before I ask this question I acknowledge the presence in the public gallery of some of the constituents from the seat of Merredin. I welcome them to the house.

I refer to a media statement of 11 April 2003 in which the previous Minister for Education and Training, Hon Alan Carpenter, promised to "revolutionise remote learning" by installing specialised telecommunication systems in the homes of all children studying through the School of the Air and Schools of Isolated and Distance Education at no cost to families.

- (1) Out of the state's 510 home-based remote students, can the minister confirm how many students' homes have been installed with a satellite dish?
- (2) Of these, how many students' homes have had their computer and modem installed?
- (3) Please advise the locations in which the complete systems - satellites, modems and computers - are up and running?
- (4) Please provide an indication of how many students are now using this online system as their primary means of education?
- (5) How much of the promised \$10 million budget for this project has been spent?
- (6) Was the project to be completed by 2004? If not, can the minister indicate why it has not been completed?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I think most people in this place would consider that question far too long. If the member for Greenough wants detailed answers to questions such as those, he might like to consider putting his questions on notice. I presume notice of the question has been given.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

Some notice has been given of the question. It is an absolute delight for me to be asked a question by the member for Greenough. Is it the new member for Greenough's first question in Parliament? I will not bore the house, but I find it interesting. We go back a long way. He was my school captain when I started my first year in high school at Albany High School. An explanation attached to this question is building! He and I have known each other for years; we worked together at the ABC and Channel 7 when it was called TVW 7 - a magnificent place to work in those days. More importantly, we were members of a very inclusive band of supporters of Subiaco Football Club who went to every home and away game. When we were contemplating what were the silliest things to yell out, he rose to the occasion with a cry that has not been surpassed and yelled out - he might want to finish this - "Oobie, doobie" -

**Mr G.A. Woodhams:** Come on Subi!

Several members interjected.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** No catchcry has ever taken root like that. It echoes around the grounds of the WAFL today, even though no-one is there to yell it out! The players are waiting for it! Where is it? It was absolutely magnificent.

I asked the member for Greenough to please ask me a question. Consistent with his character, he has asked six questions, none of which I can answer, even though, to be fair, he gave notice at 12.10 pm today! I am no longer the Minister for Education and Training, and I know that is regretted by 25 000-odd state school teachers; they lie awake at night wishing I was back, just as I wish for the echoes of "Oobie, doobie"! The minister in the other place has provided me with the following answer -

(1)-(2) Dunno!

Beyond that, she states -

The member for Greenough has asked for information on two significant projects - provision of satellite services to the School of the Air and schools of isolated and distance education. The detail of these projects is not readily available.

I can attest that it has happened; I was there when we launched it. To ensure we respond accurately, the minister asks that the questions be put on notice. The member will then be given a full answer.

## COMMUNITY COASTAL REHABILITATION PROJECTS

**67. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

What is the Gallop government doing to ensure funding for community rehabilitation projects along the coast since the federal government's decision to cease the joint Coastwest-Coastcare program?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

Mr Speaker -