

PATJARR REMOTE COMMUNITY — EDUCATION FACILITIES

23. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to education facilities and services at the Patjarr remote community.

- (1) Can the minister advise how many school-age children were living at the community as at Friday, 26 February?
- (2) Have instructions been issued to remove the classroom buildings and teacher accommodation from this community; and, if yes, when will they be removed, and what is the expected cost?
- (3) Is it proposed to educate the children living in the community with support from School of the Air?
- (4) If yes, when will School of the Air teachers visit this community during this year?
- (5) What facilities will be provided for the School of the Air teacher to stay and work with the parents and students when visiting this community?
- (6) What steps have been taken by the state government to install computer facilities that can link these students in the community to School of the Air, and will the computer facilities and web connections be separate from the existing community facilities, which are already overstretched?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Director Schools visited the community on 19 February, and there was one family with three school-age children living at Patjarr. The family intends to relocate to Coolgardie and is waiting on the allocation of housing. The Director Schools has been supporting the family's application for housing. The School of the Air teacher has worked with the children to assess their educational level, and the district office is facilitating the enrolment of the children at schools in Coolgardie.
- (2) Yes. Officers from the Department of Education and Building Management and Works will be visiting Patjarr in March to assess the situation, and a tender for the relocation will be released subsequently. The cost of the relocation will depend on the results of the tender. It is expected that the buildings will be relocated in April.
- (3) If families with school-age children intend to live at Patjarr, enrolment in the Kalgoorlie School of the Air will be available.
- (4) A teacher from the Kalgoorlie School of the Air has already visited the community this year, and if students are enrolled in School of the Air, further visits will be made.
- (5) Visits will be undertaken on a daily basis from accommodation available in Warburton. The parents and children will have the option of working with the School of the Air teacher in their home, or there is a community office that the district office will negotiate to use if required.
- (6) None as yet, as there are no students enrolled in the Kalgoorlie School of the Air. If students are enrolled, independent connections to the internet can be established if the community connections are not sufficient to cope.