

EDUCATION ASSISTANTS — QUALIFICATIONS

1095. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can the minister advise how many education assistants have relevant formal qualifications; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Does the Department of Education have a program to ensure that all education assistants in WA schools become formally qualified; and, if not, why not?
- (3) If yes to (2), what are the details and what is the time line by which all education assistants will be required to hold a formal qualification?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) No. Currently, there is no requirement for education assistants to have formal qualifications. Those education assistants who have qualifications may advise the department, but there is no requirement for them to do so.
- (2)–(3) As part of the national quality standard for early childhood education and care, education assistants working in kindergarten classes will require a qualification. It is proposed that this will take effect from January 2014. In addition, the Institute for Professional Learning will be offering a new qualification for all education assistants in 2012.