

QUALITY SCHOOLS REFORM — BILATERAL AGREEMENT

1304. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the bilateral agreement signed this week between Western Australia and the commonwealth on the quality schools reform. As a result of this agreement, and having regard to the state's contribution, will Western Australian public schools be better off in real terms than if the state had not signed the agreement?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

This is a historic amount of money from the commonwealth. It is a record amount of \$5.6 billion over the life of the agreement, which goes through to 2024. The agreement ensures that about \$200 million of additional funding will flow into the public education system over the life of the agreement. No other state in Australia will fund public schools to a level higher than that provided to Western Australian public schools. It is over six years, and I make the point that over those six years, there will be two federal elections, including one next year, so the Shorten–Plibersek commitment to Western Australian public schools includes \$501 million on top of what the current federal government is offering to Western Australian public schools.