

SCHOOLS — ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER EDUCATION OFFICERS

1038. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Education:

I note that these questions were lodged before the minister was absent on urgent parliamentary business today.

I refer to Aboriginal and Islander education officer positions. Is there still a formula to assist schools determine how many AIEOs they should employ; and, if so, what is that formula?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Education, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

No; schools are no longer allocated full-time equivalents. The student-centred funding model supports greater local control and decision-making by principals and their school communities in determining how funds are spent. All schools now operate with a one-line budget, which provides greater flexibility to develop educational programs and staffing profiles that best suit the needs of the school communities. This includes decisions related to the number of Aboriginal and Islander education officers they employ.