

SCHOOL OF ISOLATED AND DISTANCE EDUCATION — LANGUAGE COURSES

**1079. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to the provision of language courses offered by the School of Isolated and Distance Education.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the fee structure for schools accessing language courses at SIDE has changed?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
  - (a) will the minister provide more detail on the new fee structure and how it is different from the previous structure; and
  - (b) will all student year levels or only certain year levels be impacted by the new fee structure?
- (3) If yes to (1), when did the new fee structure come into effect?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) All schools are provided the funds needed to deliver the Western Australian curriculum through the student-centred funding model, and that includes the languages curriculum. It was recognised in 2017 that some schools, particularly small schools typically located in rural and remote regions, may have difficulty attracting teachers with the experience and confidence to also teach the languages curriculum. In response, the Department of Education made available a range of teaching and learning resources, such as the online Indonesian program *Ketawa* and support through lead language schools.  
  
In November 2017, the department announced that schools would also be able to purchase a languages program through a lead language school, including the School of Isolated and Distance Education, on a price-per-class basis. As a result of feedback that a price per class may not be sustainable for small primary schools, the per-class pricing model was revised for 2019. The revised pricing model was communicated to schools on 24 October 2018. From 2019, the price for accessing a primary languages program through SIDE will be calculated on a cost-recovery model, which uses a sliding scale based on student population. The price per student for SIDE languages programs will range from a maximum of \$701 per student for schools with a primary student population of 200 or more and will reduce for schools with small student populations. Schools with primary student populations of 60 students or fewer will not be charged. All schools accessing the SIDE languages program also pay an additional \$5 subject contribution per student to cover the cost of resource provision.
- (b) All primary year levels will be affected by the new fee structure.
- (3) The new fee structure will commence in 2019.