

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — CONNECT — WEB PORTAL

2002. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the Department of Education’s “Connect” web portal and other web-based applications for various electronic devices, and I ask:

- (a) are any of the development, testing, installation and support functions for these systems performed by staff of the Department of Education;
- (b) if yes to (a), please provide details on the following:
 - (i) the number and level of staff and FTE from the Department of Education who are involved in providing the “Connect” system;
 - (ii) the breakdown of staff and FTE numbers for each of the functions at (a); and
 - (iii) the total cost of employment for all staff involved in the provision of the Connect System;
- (c) if yes to (a), on what date did the development of the system commence;
- (d) what alternative systems were investigated by the Department before the “Connect” system was implemented;
- (e) is the “Connect” system continuously evaluated against other systems and are parents, teachers or students asked to provide feedback on “Connect”;
- (f) what are the costs of these alternative systems identified in the response to (d);
- (g) were schools and parents consulted on the requirements of the system;
- (h) how many public schools in Western Australia:
 - (i) use the “Connect” system; and
 - (ii) use the “Connect” system in conjunction with another alternative system;
- (i) are public schools or parents charged a fee for the use of the “Connect” system;
- (j) if yes to (I), what is this fee; and
- (k) if no to (a), please provide the following details:
 - (i) the name of the developer of the system;
 - (ii) the cost of the development of the system to-date; and
 - (iii) details on how the contract for development of the system was awarded and when?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) Yes. Staff participate in User Acceptance Testing and provide support for schools concerning the implementation and use of Connect.
- (b) (i) 3.5 FTE consisting of 2.5 FTE Public Service Level 7 officers and 1.0 FTE Public Service Level 6 officer
- (ii)

PS Level	FTE	Number of Officers	Function
PS7	2.5	3	School leadership consultation, training and support. User Acceptance Testing
PS6	1.0	1	Project and school support User AcceptanceTesting

- (iii) The 2018–19 salaries and superannuation costs for 3.5FTE is \$427 206.
- (c) 2011.
- (d) None.
- (e) Connect is regularly reviewed against other systems as well as global trends in online learning environments. Consultation with staff, students and parents is ongoing.
- (f) Not applicable.
- (g) Yes.
- (h) (i) During February 2019 Connect was accessed by users in 794 public schools.
- (ii) Individual schools may determine which third-party systems they use. Schools are not currently required to report this information.

- (i) No.
- (j) Not applicable.
- (k) Not applicable.