

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

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

I refer to school chaplaincy services in Western Australia.

- (1) What is the level of state funding being provided to YouthCARE to deliver chaplaincy services in —
 - (a) 2017–18;
 - (b) 2018–19;
 - (c) 2019–20; and
 - (d) 2020–21?
- (2) What is the level of state funding to be provided for the in-school, state-funded chaplaincy program in —
 - (a) 2017–18;
 - (b) 2018–19;
 - (c) 2019–20; and
 - (d) 2020–21?
- (3) Is the state government currently negotiating with the commonwealth government to continue the national school chaplaincy program in Western Australia beyond 2018?
- (4) If yes to (3), what is the current status of those negotiations?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

I preface my comments by saying that I have been in receipt of a number of letters recently from state members of Parliament asking me about the state's contribution to this funding. The state's contribution to the funding is locked in, and I will give the member the dates in a minute. The funding in question is the commonwealth's contribution. As a public service to everyone in the chamber, I suggest that we all contact the federal government members who represent Western Australia and ask them what they are doing about it

Hon Donna Faragher: That is why I am asking about it.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you very much.

- (1)
 - (a) For 2017–18, \$4.896 million is provided for the provision of school chaplaincy service and \$295 000 is provided through a grant agreement. The total value is \$5 191 000.
 - (b)–(d) Funding beyond 2017–18 is yet to be confirmed.
The agreements with YouthCARE cease on 30 June 2018. New agreements after this date are yet to be negotiated.
- (2) (a)–(d) Each in-school chaplaincy program is funded for two years. This funding is distributed to schools at the beginning of each calendar year. The state has provided the following level of funding: for the two-year period from 2017 to 2018 it has provided \$10.6 million; for the two-year period from 2019 to 2020 it has provided \$10.9 million; and funding for 2021 and beyond is yet to be confirmed.
- (3) Funding for the national school chaplaincy program post-2018 is a commonwealth decision. The state government understands that the commonwealth government has not yet allocated any funds for the chaplaincy program post-2018.
- (4) Not applicable.

I am advised that the Prime Minister has yet to sign off on the universal four-year-olds funding for Western Australia.

Hon Donna Faragher: Are you going to fill the gap? You asked that question of the former minister.

Hon SUE ELLERY: That is a very good question, but I encourage the member, in her conversations with her federal colleagues, to check with them too.