

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION TEAMS

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

I refer to Aboriginal education teams.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that all 36 Aboriginal education regional consultants, managers and coordinators within Aboriginal education teams currently located at regional offices have been advised that their positions have been abolished?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the minister confirm that services previously provided by Aboriginal education teams will now be delivered centrally through either central office and/or the statewide services centre, Padbury?
- (3) If yes to (2), how many staff, by headcount, will provide these services, what will be their position title and where will they be located?
- (4) How will the minister ensure that schools, particularly in rural and remote locations, will not be impacted negatively by this decision?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The nature of these services will change. Under the previous government, the department had already redirected Aboriginal support services to focus on improved teaching and learning for Aboriginal students by the creation in 2017 of the Aboriginal education teaching and learning directorate with five new positions—one principal adviser and four principal consultants. Five of the staff in the abolished positions will join this team. Other staff whose positions have been abolished, excluding those who opt for a voluntary separation—prior to this decision a number had indicated an interest in the voluntary targeted separation scheme—or redeployment into another role will be placed in targeted schools with high numbers of Aboriginal students so support is as close to those students as possible.
- (3) The final number and location of staff delivering these services will not be confirmed until the voluntary separation and redeployment processes are concluded.
- (4) Schools in remote and rural locations will receive the support they require from the Aboriginal education teaching and learning directorate and/or the staff placed in targeted schools, and will continue to receive the range of supports from other positions that provide similar services.