

AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAM — PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

**193. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to the primary agricultural awareness program previously funded and run through the Department of Education's agricultural education directorate.

- (1) Is the department continuing this program at schools in Western Australia?
- (2) If no to (1), what is the justification for ceasing the program?
- (3) If no to (1), what is the annual budget saving to government or the department in closing this program?
- (4) If no to (1), how does the minister plan to make up for the public school shortfall in exposure to food and fibre production as a result of cancelling the primary agricultural awareness program?
- (5) If yes to (1), what level of funding has been budgeted to continue the program and for how long?
- (6) How many students participated in the program run through Kiara College and Kelmscott Senior High School over the last five years?
- (7) How many accompanying adults participated in the program over the same period?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) No. The program runs only at Kiara College and Kelmscott Senior High School and has enabled primary school students to gain an awareness of where food and fibre come from. This has no impact on the agricultural programs run at either school.
- (2) The cessation of this program was a budget repair measure.
- (3) The 2018 budget for the primary agricultural awareness program is \$221 924. This amount is for the two salaries of the employed officers, so it is adjusted each year. These staff will be redeployed at the schools.
- (4) The Department of Education is working with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to strengthen agricultural education in public schools and increase awareness of career opportunities and pathways related to food and fibre production.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) This information is retained locally at the two sites. In the time available, it has not been possible to obtain the data. The data will be provided once it has been sourced and compiled.
- (7) This data is not collected.