

COMMUNITY KINDERGARTENS

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

I refer to the answer given to question without notice 173 asked on 28 March 2018 regarding community kindergartens and the minister's response, and I quote —

When a community kindergarten has fewer than the required projected enrolments, the department will consider an extension on a case-by-case basis.

Will the minister identify all matters that will be considered by the department in determining whether an extension can be granted to a community kindergarten?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

If enrolment numbers are close to the required threshold and the community kindergarten parent management committee can demonstrate other enrolments are likely, an extension will be granted for up to six weeks. A final decision must be made by the end of term 3 in the school year. This enables kindergarten places to be found for the students in other public schools and for staff to be placed. As an example, in the second half of 2015, the department worked closely with Mount Helena Community Kindergarten where confirmed enrolments were low. The community kindergarten, which had been operating for over 45 years, was given additional time to attract enrolments. The office of early childhood liaised with the parent management committee assisting with advice. The host public school and relevant department personnel were kept informed of the progress of efforts being made to increase enrolments. Mount Helena Community Kindergarten opted not to operate in 2016 but it is operating today.