

EDUCATION ASSISTANTS — ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS FUNDING

248. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the minister's comment during debate on a motion moved by me on 14 March that royalties for regions funding for the boarding away from home allowance was not a permanent arrangement and was a temporary measure.

- (1) Are education assistants employed using royalties regions funding a temporary measure?
- (2) If so, why has the minister not made those education assistants permanent by paying their salaries from the education budget?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

- (1)–(2) The honourable member has asked a version of this question before and I gave the answer then that I am going to give her now. We made an election commitment and declared how we would fund it. We made that known to everybody. For eight years, the previous government was lobbied by the Isolated Children's Parents' Association and others to make the BAHA arrangements permanent and it did nothing.