

**DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION SUPPORT SCHOOLS**

*Statement by Minister for Education and Training*

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training)** [2.04 pm]: I rise today to advise the house of a new funding arrangement for two valued associations that support staff and leaders in our schools. I have asked the Department of Education to provide additional support to the Western Australian District High School Administrators' Association, known as WADHSAA, and the Western Australian Education Support Principals and Administrators' Association, known as WAESPAA. WADHSAA will receive annual funding equivalent to 0.4 FTE to enable the president, Mr James Milne, to be released from his school principal duties for two days a week to lead greater consultation and support for district high schools. WADHSAA supports leadership staff from 52 district high schools in regional and remote locations. Schools are often considered to be the heart of a community. Strong leadership in a school is a key factor in the health of a community, especially in regional locations. The extra funding recognises the role WADHSAA has in the school system and the value this government places on its engagement and support for schools. Similarly, WAESPAA will receive annual funding equivalent to 0.2 FTE so that the president, Ms Natalie Hatton, can also be released from her duties as school principal for one day a week to allow her to engage with and support education support schools. The lives of families with a child or children with significant disability can be highly stressful and often the parents turn to the education support school or centre for help. WAESPAA members are committed to improving the lives of people with disability through education, and their role is a critical one. WADHSAA and WAESPAA are key stakeholders in the public education system. I look forward to hearing what they achieve for their school communities with the additional support to participate in the consultation about and development of system responses across a range of education initiatives.