

STRONG FAMILIES PROGRAM

1380. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the Strong Families program, which provided formal coordinated cross-agency support and is due to cease.

Given that the program has been cut and is due to end —

- (a) how many schools were involved in the program; and
- (b) is there anything to replace the program?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (a) The Department for Child Protection and Family Support is the agency responsible for the administration of the Strong Families program. The program works with families and not directly with schools.
- (b) The Department of Education is not the agency responsible for the provision of services such as those delivered by this program. Schools will continue to work with all relevant agencies and services to support students in public schools. The department will also continue to partner with non-government organisations to operate 21 child and parent centres located on public school sites in disadvantaged communities.