

EDUCATION — KIMBERLEY DISABILITY COORDINATION TEAM — FUNDING

5644. Ms J. Farrer to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to the Kimberley Disability Coordination Team project, based at Cable Beach Primary School Broome, which will no longer be funded beyond 2016, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister provide funding and resources to enable Cable Beach Primary School to become the Teacher Development School for Special Educational Needs, for the Kimberley;
- (b) will the Minister provide funding and resources to ensure that the Kimberley Disability Coordination Team becomes a permanent program delivering support and services to schools and communities throughout the Kimberley; and
- (c) if no to (a) and (b), how will the Minister ensure that students with disabilities, their families, and teachers are provided with high level professional educational support and service delivery to meet their needs?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

- (a) Cable Beach Primary School will have the opportunity to apply to become a Special Education Needs Teacher Development School (TDS) in Term 4, 2017. This is in line with the Department of Education's timeline for the appointment of TDSs for 2018–19. To receive funding to become a TDS, a school must demonstrate the relevant expertise and capacity, including high-level understanding of relevant areas of the curriculum, and the ability to provide professional support across a range of schools.
- (b) The Kimberley Disability Coordination Team was funded through the Commonwealth funded National Partnership, More Support for Students with Disabilities. The Commonwealth is not providing the State with further funding to continue this project. This has been understood by Cable Beach Primary School since the project commenced.
- (c) High-level professional support and service delivery is provided through the Department of Education's Schools of Special Educational Needs and the School Psychology Service. These state-wide services include access to a range of support programs and expert consulting teachers. Schools in the Kimberley also have access to the support provided by the Special Educational Needs TDSs from across the State.

In addition for 2017, \$86,000 remaining from the Kimberley Disability Coordination Team project will be available to support teachers of students with disability in the Kimberley.

For 2015, the total disability allocation to public schools, through the student-centred funding model was \$291,515,767. This included individual disability allocations and educational adjustment allocations. As at 15 September 2016, the total disability allocation to public schools is \$311,389,788. This includes the initial disability allocations and educational adjustment allocations to 15 September 2016.