

PUBLIC SCHOOLS — SECLUSION

1884. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the use of seclusion in Western Australian public schools, and I ask:

- (a) in what situations is seclusion permitted;
- (b) are schools required to record the use of seclusion:
 - (i) if yes to (b), what information is required to be included in the record; and
 - (ii) if no to (b), why not;
- (c) does the department require parents/caregivers to be advised:
 - (i) if no to (c), why not; and
- (d) on how many occasions was seclusion used by school staff in:
 - (i) 2015;
 - (ii) 2016;
 - (iii) 2017; and
 - (iv) 2018?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) Seclusion is not referenced in the *School Education Act 1999* or the *School Education Regulations 2000* and the Department of Education's *Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures* refers to protective isolation, rather than seclusion.

Protective isolation may be used for the purpose of managing risk of harm. Regulations 38(a) and 38(c) of the *School Education Regulations 2000* permit a school staff member may take reasonable action:

to manage or care for a student; or

to prevent or restrain a person who places at risk the safety of self or others.

- (b) Schools are required to record the use of protective isolation.
 - (i) The following information is required to be included in the record:
 - the date, time, location, and duration of the protective isolation;
 - the reason for the protective isolation;
 - behavioural observations of the student before, during and following protective isolation;
 - details of contact with the parents/carers;
 - brief details of the follow-up support provided;
 - a statement by the staff member/s involved; and
 - a statement (or substitute) by the student involved.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
- (c) Yes.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (d) The number of occasions that schools reported using protective isolation are:

Year	Number of occasions
(i) 2015	Not applicable *
(ii) 2016	278
(iii) 2017	102
(iv) 2018	96

* The Department did not record this data prior to 2016.