

ASHDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SOUTHERN RIVER COLLEGE — COMPUTER PURCHASES

**1255. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that Ashdale Primary School has requested parents of year 3 students to purchase MacBook Air computers for \$1 400 for use for the next school year, and Southern River College has requested parents of year 7 students to purchase MacBooks for \$1 800?
- (2) Does the minister believe it is appropriate to ask parents to buy MacBook Air computers at these prices, given that many parents are already under financial pressure?
- (3) Is the minister aware of any payment programs that may assist parents who may not be able to make one-off payments?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

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

- (1)–(2) The principal and school board are best placed to determine the school requirements. In both examples, the purchase of the computer is an option for parents. If parents do not take up the option to purchase a computer, their children will not be disadvantaged in their learning program. Parents were advised that if a device was not provided, students would be provided with the equivalent level of access to a compatible school-owned device at no charge.
- (3) I am advised that parents were provided with information on flexi-purchase plans as an alternative to paying for the computer outright should they choose to purchase a computer.