

DOUBLEVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPLEX — OPENING

683. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Minister for Education and Training:

The Department of Education guidelines “Official Opening of Public School Buildings” recognise that an official opening is a significant event for a public school. In that regard, I refer to the minister’s answers to my questions without notice of 11 and 12 April this year regarding the new Doubleview Primary School.

- (1) Given that the new school complex has been operating since the start of this year, when will the minister officially open the school?
- (2) Has the school been in contact with the minister’s office about an official opening; and, if so, why has a date not been set?
- (3) Will the minister be issuing invitations to the opening to local members of Parliament, or ensure that local members of Parliament are invited, or is she waiting to be invited by the local member of Parliament, as was the case with the Halidon Primary School administration building ceremony?
- (4) Is the Minister’s lack of interest in officially opening the new Doubleview Primary School related to the project being one for which the McGowan Labor government cannot pretend to claim credit, it having been an initiative of the last Liberal government and, unlike Halidon, located in a Liberal-held electorate?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I begin by saying that when I did attend a series of school openings at the beginning of this year—the member can ask his colleagues if he does not believe me—at every single one of them I acknowledged that the project had been funded, budgeted for and begun under the previous government.

Hon Martin Aldridge: I wouldn’t know; I wasn’t invited.

Hon SUE ELLERY: The member needs to talk to his local schools if they are not inviting him.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon SUE ELLERY: Read the policy.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister is going to answer the question and everyone else is going to listen.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I have already tabled the policy in answer to a previous question, but I think I might table it again next week for the benefit of the house, and members can see who is responsible for issuing invitations.

- (1)–(3) A date for the official opening of the redeveloped Doubleview Primary School has yet to be scheduled. Dates of official openings are determined in consultation with the schools involved. For the record, Halidon Primary School is a great school with a fantastic school leadership and parent body. I am disappointed at one of their local members of Parliament’s tone of questioning that continues to imply that the school is not worthy of the funding provided.
- (4) I have officially opened a number of infrastructure projects commissioned under the previous government, including new schools opened in term 1 that are located in non-Labor held electorates. I have also attended openings at Churchlands Senior High School in the seat of Churchlands; West Leederville Primary School in the seat of Churchlands; Holland Street School in Geraldton; Geraldton Senior College, Geraldton; and Wandina Primary School, Geraldton. I might note in respect of those schools in Geraldton that the shadow Minister for Education and Training was invited but was not able to attend. I have also attended the openings at Rapids Landing Primary School in the seat of Warren-Blackwood; Vasse Primary School in the seat of Vasse; and Dunsborough Primary School in the seat of Vasse. In fact, proceeding with the Doubleview Primary School on that site was part of the pre-election commitments of the McGowan government to honour the commitments made by the previous government about allocating resources to address enrolment pressures in the western suburbs. The only part of that that we did not support was the site of the new western suburbs secondary school.