

PATJARR COMMUNITY — EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

150. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to the education of nine children who live in the Patjarr community and who are currently enrolled with the School of the Air.

- (1) What educational support has been delivered to this group of children at Patjarr so far this year?
- (2) Is the Department of Education aware that the community is increasingly moving towards a level of stability and growth that makes it inappropriate for the school to be removed from Patjarr, as was proposed last year?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The minister has provided the following answers —

- (1) There have been two visits to the community by staff from Kalgoorlie School of the Air this year for the three school-age children enrolled. The first visit was to assess students to enable an appropriate program to be delivered, and the second visit, yesterday, was to support the supervisor delivering the programs to students. A room has been leased from the Patjarr community that is suitable for the delivery of the program. Furniture, resources and equipment have been provided and set up in that room; an internet connection and telephone line has been installed and set up; and a teacher assistant has been employed from the community to supervise the online delivery of lessons and the completion of work materials.
- (2) As of yesterday there were three school-age students resident in the community. Other students have visited the community, and enrolment has been offered to them, should they be resident in the community for a substantial period. Each of these students is enrolled at other campuses of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School; none of them has remained in the community for any substantial period of time.