

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FEES

2167. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Education

As government schools are now seeking contributions and charges from families for the 2010 school year, could the Minister please answer the following for both primary and secondary settings:

- (a) on average, how much are schools asking families to pay for each child (including compulsory items like Mathematics and textbooks, but not including special costs for non-compulsory items like excursions); and
- (b) on average, using the same measure, how much did schools ask families to pay for each child in 2009?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (a)-(b) Public schools need to adhere to the requirement of the School Education Act 1999, School Education Regulations 2000 and the Contributions, Charges and Fees Policy.

Public primary schools are required to provide a full learning program within a maximum voluntary contribution of \$60. This should include the provision of textbooks and learning systems and programs required for all learning areas including mathematics.

In 2010, public secondary schools are required to provide a full learning program within a maximum voluntary contribution of \$235 in Years 8 to 10. This should include the provision of textbooks required for all learning areas. Extra cost optional components of the learning program which the students/parents can choose, attract additional compulsory charges. The level of these charges is set at the local school level. These costs should be kept to a minimum and should not exceed the actual cost of materials, services and facilities used by the student.

Years 11 and 12 course charges are compulsory. These are set at the local school level and should be kept to a minimum and not exceed the actual cost of materials, services and facilities used by the student.

An average cannot be calculated as fees and charges vary according to school and year level and the information is not recorded centrally.