

COMMUNITY KINDERGARTENS — ENROLMENT THRESHOLD

685. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 644 asked yesterday about community kindergartens. If a community kindergarten's projected enrolments increase in term 4 to meet the new threshold, will the kindergarten be able to open in 2019; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

As I have stated in responses to similar questions about community kindergartens, case-by-case consideration will be given to community kindergartens that have a projected enrolment increase between the cut-off date and the end of term 3. If enrolment numbers are close to the required threshold and the community kindergarten parent management committee can demonstrate that other enrolments are likely, an extension will be granted for up to six weeks. A final decision must be made by the end of term 3 in the school year. This enables kindergarten places to be found for the students in other public schools and for staff to be placed. Through experience, the Department of Education is aware that any ongoing uncertainty during term 4 can be distressing for children, families, community kindergarten parent management committees and staff. Therefore, to provide certainty for families and to ensure the timely placement of children and staff, it is necessary for community kindergartens to meet the required enrolment threshold by the end of term 3.