

MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

1101. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the government's election commitment for additional support to schools to oversee the delivery of evidence-based mental health programs.

- (1) Will the minister list the evidence-based programs endorsed by the department for implementation in schools?
- (2) What was the selection criteria used to determine the programs listed in (1)?
- (3) What was the process undertaken by the department to invite organisations to nominate programs for endorsement and when did this occur?
- (4) Was an expert panel established to determine which programs would be endorsed; and, if yes, will the minister advise the name and relevant qualification of each panel member; and, if not, who determined which programs would be endorsed?
- (5) What guidance is provided to individual schools about which evidence-based mental health programs are most suitable and who provides this guidance?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

The McGowan government made an election commitment to appoint additional teaching staff in WA school classrooms to support students, including 30 appointed to secondary schools, so a level 3 classroom teacher can take on the role of coordinating mental health programs for students. All 300 schools participating in the Mental Health in Schools program have been allocated funding. All Mental Health in Schools coordinators have been provided opportunities to participate in professional learning for Gatekeeper suicide prevention training and youth mental health first aid. All staff required to complete this training will do so before the end of 2018.

- (1) The Department of Education has referred schools to the online program guides available through the KidsMatter and MindMatters websites. KidsMatter and MindMatters are nationally recognised initiatives developed by mental health professionals and education staff to support the mental health and wellbeing of school-age children and young people.
- (2) KidsMatter and MindMatters determine which programs are included on their websites. The program guides are based on an analysis of the evidence base associated with programs and provide comparisons in the content, delivery methods and evidence of effectiveness of various programs.
- (3) The department did not ask organisations to nominate programs for endorsement.
- (4) No. See (1) and (2). KidsMatter and MindMatters determine the programs that are included on their websites.
- (5) In addition to the online program guides available through the KidsMatter and MindMatters websites, schools can access guidance from the school psychology service.