

EARLY CHILDHOOD iPad INITIATIVE

7148. Mr P. Papalia to the Minister for Education

With reference to the Early Childhood iPad Initiative announced by the Premier, I ask

- (a) what is the full Budget for the program;
- (b) was the funding, in whole or part, Federally sourced and if so to what extent;
- (c) if there is no Federal funding, was the initiative budgeted for in the 2011–12 State Budget;
- (d) from what Department of Education program was it sourced;
- (e) how were the pilot schools selected; and
- (f) what formal evaluation has the Minister designed to determine the effectiveness of the initiative in improving literacy and numeracy?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (a) \$1 012 500.
- (b)–(d) Funding for the Early Childhood iPad Initiative is sourced from the reward funding allocated to the State from the Smarter Schools National Partnerships Literacy and Numeracy program.
- (e) The schools selected to join this Early Childhood iPad Initiative participated in the Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership in 2010 and 2011, and demonstrated the greatest level of improvement in NAPLAN reading and numeracy results.
- (f) The evaluation process, as is the case with all operational matters, is managed by the Department of Education. Participating schools have commenced action research to ascertain the impact of touch technology on the literacy and numeracy learning of Year 1 and Year 2 students. Baseline data, including the use of the on-entry assessment, will inform the action research. Students will be assessed before iPads are distributed into classrooms, and again at the end of the year to ascertain the change in students' literacy and/or numeracy development.