

EDUCATION — INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**692. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to a 2016 Grattan Institute report that estimated that the number of school students in Western Australia would balloon by nearly 60 000, or 16.8 per cent, by 2026, requiring the building of an additional 72 new schools in WA. I also refer to the minister's recent answer to question without notice 456 that states —

The Department of Education has a plan to increase the number of international students in WA schools ...

- (1) How many schools have been built in WA since 2016?
- (2) How many schools are currently being built in WA to meet this new demand?
- (3) How many schools are currently at the formal planning stage?
- (4) Is the government expecting any federal funding to build new schools?
- (5) If yes to (4), how much?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) Twenty-one new schools opened between 2016 and 2019.
- (2) Seven schools are currently being built to cater for growing enrolments, one of which is the extension of Grandis Primary School to provide kindergarten to year 6. All new public schools are built to cater for increasing enrolment demand. International students enrol only when there is existing space in old or new schools.
- (3) Seven new schools have been announced and are in the planning stage.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

As part of the state government commitment to diversify jobs through international education and to support the “Where Bright Futures Begin: International Education in Perth, Western Australia 2018–2025” strategy, the Department of Education has developed a five-year plan to grow the number of international students.