

COMMUNITY KINDERGARTENS

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

I refer to kindergarten programs.

- (1) How many kindergarten programs operate within the government school sector across the state?
- (2) Of those referred to in (1), how many are community kindergartens?
- (3) As at the 2018 February census date, how many kindergartens referred to in (1) had fewer than 16 confirmed enrolments; and, of those, how many are community kindergartens?
- (4) Can the minister confirm that from 2019 the enrolment threshold required for community kindergartens to access staff and operational funding from the department will increase from 10 to 16 confirmed enrolments? If yes, will the minister table a copy of correspondence sent from the department on or after 13 December 2017 advising community kindergartens of this decision?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) There are 1 138 straight kindergarten classes and 238 mixed classes that include students in other year groups—for example, kindy and preprimary. In addition, the Department of Education funds 17 community kindergartens. Community kindergartens offer an alternative to kindergarten provision at public schools. Each community kindergarten is managed by an incorporated parent management committee. As long as the committees meet relevant legislative requirements and achieve the minimum number of enrolments each year, the Department of Education provides them with staff and an annual operating grant, based on the number of enrolments.
- (3) The February census is still being finalised.
- (4) Yes, and I table the attached information.

[See paper 1161.]

[Interruption from the gallery.]