

DUNCRAIG SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL–DUNCRAIG SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

1016. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the conflict over the past four years between Duncraig Senior High School and Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre over equitable allocation and use of public school facilities and resources located on the grounds shared by the two schools.

What steps has the minister taken to address each of the following outstanding issues from the board of DSESC during the transition period to a new site —

- (a) immediate short-term access priorities, including an accessible therapy room that is suitable for use for daily management procedures for all students on the Duncraig site, whether from the education support centre or the senior high school;
- (b) the guidelines for negotiating agreed access to Duncraig facilities in the medium term;
- (c) an independent review of Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre facilities in the context of current and future demand to determine medium and long term infrastructure needs; and
- (d) clear directions from the department as to what investment it plans to make in the Duncraig SESC over the next one to two years to address short to medium-term infrastructure needs, and a long-term plan to ensure that we are prepared for future demand?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I think she should be at home, quite frankly.

Hon Sue Ellery: I would like to be.

Hon PETER COLLIER: The member does not sound good at all. I think she should go home.

Several members interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I was being sincere; I really do not think she should be here.

Hon Sue Ellery: I appreciate it; thank you.

Hon PETER COLLIER: In response to the question —

- (a) I am aware of the issues at Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre and Duncraig Senior High School that I understand are the result of increased enrolments at both schools. As this is an operational matter, the Department of Education has been addressing the issues. Planning to resolve these matters has been underway for some time and I understand the principals at both schools have been in regular communication with officers from the department. On 19 September 2016, the director general wrote to all staff and parents at Duncraig Senior High School and Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre providing information about the department's responses to immediate concerns, plans for 2017 and its preferred strategy for the longer term. I emphasise that, at this time, relocation to a new site remains the preferred strategy. Further consultation will occur with principals and their communities at these schools.

On 16 September 2016, an accessible therapy room was made available for all students on the Duncraig site. The principals have approved this room as suitable for use with students requiring specific procedures related to their particular needs. All students at both schools have access to the oval and hard surfaces during recess and lunch time. The students from Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre have access to Duncraig Senior High School's specialist facilities, including the gym, performing arts, rehearsal room and visual arts and home economics rooms of the senior high school.

- (b) On 20 March 2014, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre and Duncraig Senior High School to provide access to facilities on the high school site for all students. This memorandum of understanding was based on the understanding of the rights of all students to a quality education.
- (c) The department routinely monitors enrolment growth and infrastructure needs for all public schools. It has been working with both principals to ensure that all students at Duncraig Senior High School and Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre have access to quality educational programs in both the short and longer terms. It is not departmental practice to conduct independent reviews into routine operational matters regarding enrolment growth and infrastructure planning.

- (d) To address enrolment pressures in 2017, three additional transportable classrooms will be provided to Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre and Duncraig Senior High School. They will comprise one home economics classroom and two general purpose classrooms. Consultation is underway between the two principals and officers from the department regarding how these additional resources can be best used to complement existing facilities to resolve the matters associated with enrolment growth. The department's preferred position for the long-term resolution of this matter is the relocation of Duncraig Secondary Education Support Centre to the Warwick Senior High School site. This strategy remains under a process of consultation between departmental officers, school principals and members of their communities.