

SCHOOLS — SELF-DEFENCE TRAINING

3446. Mrs L.M. Harvey to the minister representing the Minister for Education and Training:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise which schools have provided self defence training for teachers?
- (2) Will the Minister please advise which schools are considering providing self defence training for teachers?

Mr P. Papalia replied:

- (1)–(2) There are no centrally stored records held by the Department of Education that can provide this information. To answer this question for schools it would require a survey to be completed by all schools. This has not been undertaken. In addition there is no mechanism to obtain this information from non-government schools.

The Department has a contract with Team-Teach Asia-Pacific for the provision of de-escalation and positive handling training courses. Under this contract, public school staff are trained how to defuse a situation and apply appropriate interventions to protect students, staff or others from harm, which in some circumstances may involve physical contact with a student; however, this is not in any way characterised as ‘self-defence’.