

CAMP SCHOOLS — FAIRBRIDGE WA

879. Hon JIM CHOWN to the Minister for Education and Training:

With Fairbridge WA being the McGowan government's preferred tenderer for the six camp schools—Bridgetown, Dampier, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Pemberton and Point Peron—and in consideration of Fairbridge WA's annual reports of 2014, 2015, 2016 that indicate that Fairbridge was running at a significant loss over those periods —

- (1) Would the minister please explain why she believes that Fairbridge WA has the ability to run the camp schools in an affordable manner and give continuity to its ongoing commitments to thousands of public school students each year?
- (2) How much has Fairbridge received in the form of government grants over the last five years?
- (3) If Fairbridge has been receiving government grants, please give a breakdown on a per annum basis.
- (4) Will the new administrator of the six camp schools be instructed to give priority to public school students or state-run schools who wish to access these important educational facilities?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The Department of Education conducted a robust tender and evaluation process to select the most suitable proponent to manage the six camp schools.
- (2) I have been advised that Fairbridge WA operates over three areas: heritage and general accommodation; education through the curriculum and re-engagement in education schools; and as an accredited registered training organisation. Fairbridge WA receives funding from various state and commonwealth sources.
- (3) The honourable member would need to ask Fairbridge WA about its sources of funding.
- (4) Fairbridge WA has committed to provide public school groups priority access to camp accommodation during school term periods.