

PRIMARY SCHOOLS — HAND-WASHING FACILITIES

1650. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Education

- (1) What measures are in place to ensure that primary school students are able to wash their hands while at school?
- (2) What measures does the Minister have in place to check that the policies are being implemented?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of schools where normal hand-washing facilities are not being provided; and
  - (a) if so, what action will the Minister take?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (1) The Department of Education views the promotion of hand washing as an important public health measure and regularly promotes the practice through policy and advice to Western Australian public schools.
- (2) In June 2009, during the recent outbreak of H1N1 Influenza a survey of 47 schools across the State found that the majority of schools (83 per cent) provided soap for hand washing. Those schools that did not provide soap cited vandalism of soap products as the reason. Some of these schools provided alternatives such as hand sanitiser or asked students to provide their own hand washing products.
- (3) All schools have access to hand washing facilities.
  - (a) Not applicable