

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

7th Assembly

09/10/1996

136.
Wheelchairs

Supplementary Question to Written Questions 80 and 127 - Purchase of

Mr. BAILEY to MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING

QUESTION

1. In respect of the purchase of a wheelchair on 12 February 1992 for an amount of \$6,000.00, advised in the answer to Written Question 80:
 - (a) what type of wheelchair was purchased;
 - (b) was it a "Systems 1" wheelchair; and
 - (c) if it is not a "Systems 1" wheelchair, what type is it.
2. Had the wheelchair been customised for a particular person; if so, for what reason.
3. If the answer to question 2 is yes, what was the justification for the wheelchair being purchased by the Department of Education rather than the Department of Health or a health services agency.
4. Is the wheelchair still owned by the Department of Education; and:
 - (a) where is it located at present;
 - (b) how long has it been at that location;
 - (c) has the wheelchair been used at its present location; and
 - (d) has it ever been used.
5. If the answer to question 4 is no, what are the details of its disposal, i.e.:
 - (a) to whom was it transferred; and
 - (b) for what consideration.

ANSWER

Answered on 23/12/96

1. (a) The wheelchair purchased for \$6,000 is a customised electric wheelchair used as a trial and training system.

Sedo (b) A detachable seat from a “System 1” wheelchair was installed on a New Zealand Electric Transporter.

(c) The major components of this chair are a combination of two different systems.

2. No. The wheelchair was customised not for the use of one student, but as a trial mobility system for students with severe physical disabilities who are non-mobile and unable to propel themselves in a manual wheelchair. A variety of switches to operate the wheelchair provide a range of access options which can be trialled with individual students.

3. Not applicable.

4. Yes.

(a) The wheelchair is based at Namarluk School but is often on loan to students with disabilities in mainstream schools.

(b) The wheelchair has been based at Namarluk School since it was purchased on 12 February 1992.

(c) Yes

(d) Yes

5. Not applicable.