



**School Pride
24 May 2005**

Sir Humphrey's School is at Coorabie

Mrs Penfold could not believe her eyes when she passed the empty Coorabie school located around 160 kilometres west of Ceduna last Tuesday and saw one of the Governments expensive triangular 'school pride' signs in the front yard.

"Only a very out of touch Labor Education Minister could sanction an expensive school pride sign to be placed in a school that has not had any students for the three years of the Labor Government despite not being officially closed.

I have spoken to one parent who was one of three families sharing the cost to take their children more than 1000km every week to Ceduna for their education. I have been told that some of these families have now decided to split their family units to enable the children to live in the town and enjoy better access to the education facilities."

"We turned the vehicle around so I could take photos to prove that what I was seeing was not in my imagination. I have been told that these signs cost around \$600 each and add to that the cost of probably two DAIS employees travelling from Ceduna or possibly further to put it there, taking the better part of half a day at least, this sign alone would have cost over \$1,000. I could see no evidence of any painting having been done while employees were at the site, to remotely justify the sign."

"Across the State these signs are being put up regardless of the schools preferring to spend the money on something more worthwhile both for the signs and for the ministers required external painting costing millions of dollars, that I am told has often not been the priority that the schools would have chosen if they had been given a choice in the matter." Mrs. Penfold said.

Mrs Penfold questions the cost of the sign and the cost of putting it in such a remote location in a school without students.