



**YALATA SWIMMING POOL
29 August 2006**

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Will the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation give a firm date for the completion of the swimming pool at Yalata, where young people urgently need positive activities to prevent them from falling into unhealthy practices? The pool was supposed to have been completed before the summer of 2005 but it is yet to be started. It is one of two pools the Premier promised for Aboriginal communities by the end of 2005. Grave concern was being expressed about the reported incidence of petrol sniffing which, as everyone should know, is severely injurious to health, the quality of life and general wellbeing.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): We do believe that this is an important initiative in schools for its therapeutic effect and its relationship with school attendance, but it would not be prudent to give a firm date for the completion of any construction project in a remote area of the state. There are real difficulties associated with that, but we will be doing it as quickly as we possibly can.

**Yalata Swimming Pool
Question asked 2nd May 2006**

The	SPEAKER:	The	member	for	Flinders.
Mrs PENFOLD	(Flinders):	Thank	you,	Mr Speaker—and	I
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The SPEAKER:	Order!	The	member	for	Flinders

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has the call.

Mrs PENFOLD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Will the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation give a firm date for the completion of the swimming pool at Yalata that was supposed to be completed before the summer of 2005? Swimming pools have been shown to improve school attendance and the general health of children in outback communities, providing urgently needed positive activity to help them from falling into unhealthy practices. Grave concern is currently being expressed over a reported incidence of petrol sniffing at Yalata. Petrol sniffing is particularly injurious to health, quality of life and general wellbeing of young people who need positive activity.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): There is no doubt that the concerns the honourable member raises about Aboriginal communities, and the pressing need to improve service delivery in those communities, are shared by the government. I will have to check the particular detail about which the honourable member is talking. I am aware that a pool, which is about to be completed at Mimili, certainly has been delayed. A swimming pool and multipurpose centre has been a shared initiative of both the commonwealth and state governments in the Yalata region. We are now receiving some advice and clarification from the Yalata community about its particular needs for that area. I understand that we are getting some preliminary expert advice and guidance in that area. This is an area which has attracted funding through a commonwealth program and which I think is called Communities in Crisis—or a name of that sort. I know we are seeking to attract funding to meet the needs in that particular community.

I think the answer to the question is that the pool and the multipurpose centre are still in the design stage. I think that the costs associated with constructing any infrastructure in these remote regions is often much greater than first anticipated. I think the present concern of the people who are doing the design is how, with the money

that has been found by both the state and federal governments, they can meet the needs of the local community for both a pool and multipurpose centre. The ambitions of the local community are somewhat greater than the money allocated for that area. We are in the discussion phase, but we do acknowledge that pools have made an important contribution, especially when they have been linked in certain circumstances to school attendance policies. We understand that has made a positive difference in some remote and regional communities. We share the honourable member's concern and, to the extent that there is some impatience about the delays that are occurring in this matter, we have resolved to work as quickly as we can to reach a resolution of these issues.