



Minister blasts 'fly-in, fly-out' bully counselling

MP: Our schools in cold

ALEX MUNRO

SHADOW Minister for the Mid West Brian Ellis has attacked a State Government plan to fight school bullying in the Mid West using "fly-in, fly-out counsellors".

He said Geraldton schools have been left high and dry under the new State Government anti-bullying scheme.

In Parliament last week Mr Ellis tackled the Government's new program to address student behaviour problems — by asking whether a fly-in, fly-out service was planned.

Labour MP Ljiljana Ravlich responded that a country outreach

service would include "on-site support by primary behaviour centre staff, use of technology and ongoing consultancy and collaboration with local student service teams".

The answer put Mr Ellis on the offensive. He said teachers and students in the bush had missed out again and asked how effective Geraldton's "fly-in, fly-out" would be.

"How often, how immediate and how consistent will it be? It seems like the real burden will still be on local teachers," he told the *Geraldton Guardian*.

Mr Ellis's concerns come after two

17-year-old male students faced Geraldton Children's Court last week over a schoolyard assault that left a fellow student with concussion. Both students had their cases adjourned until June 20 for legal advice.

The boys have been charged, for the morning attack, with assault occasioning bodily harm. The attack occurred last month at Geraldton Senior College at about 8.30am.

The State Government's scheme focuses on setting up five behaviour centres throughout the Perth metropolitan area.



Brian Ellis