

RETAIL AND PERSONAL SERVICES SKILLS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Statement

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [5.30 pm]: I know it has been a long week and I know that other people wish to speak, so I will be quite brief. This week, I became aware that the Retail and Personal Services Skills Advisory Council is to close on 30 September this year. For 22 years, this institution has acted as a conduit between governments of all persuasions and the industries it represents. These industries include beauty, barbering, hairdressing, community pharmacy, floristry, food services, funeral services, and retail. The two government departments that it has mostly dealt with are the Department of Training and Workforce Development and the WA State Training Board. Over those 22 years, RAPS has provided quality advice and information to a range of people in the industries it represents, including employers, employees, community, enterprises and industry, registered training organisations and government. It has provided leadership to industry on matters associated with vocational education and training. It has supported innovation and workforce development, and has provided advice to state and commonwealth governments on training needs and priorities for public funding. It has worked with key industry organisations to identify current and future industry vocational education and training priorities, as well as facilitating the development and review of training packages in Western Australia. It has provided advice about, and assisted employers, employees and training organisations on the implementation, of training packages within the RAPS Skills Advisory Council's coverage, and it has done so much more. I served as chair of the board for many years prior to coming into Parliament. I note, Madam President, that in the early years prior to your life in Parliament, you also gave RAPS a lot of assistance.

I would like to thank Norma Roberts, who has been the CEO of the organisation for many years, and Jane and David for all their service over the 22 years, and wish them well for any future enterprises they might take up.

The PRESIDENT: I also add my thanks to Norma Roberts. She has done an exemplary job in the training area, particularly for people in the retail sector. I wish her well for her future.