

FRANCIS BURT LAW EDUCATION PROGRAMME

932. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Department of Education's advice to the Law Society of Western Australia that it will cease funding the Francis Burt Law Education Programme from 1 July 2019.

- (1) When did the Attorney General first become aware of the decision to cease funding?
- (2) What has he done to ensure the continuity of funding from the McGowan state government, and with what result?
- (3) What representations have been made, and advice given, to him about the funding issue, and what has been his response? I ask him to table any such correspondence; and, if he declines, to explain why.
- (4) Given that with the passage of the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018 the McGowan government will have an additional \$123 million in revenue over the next four years, which is more than it requires to freeze TAFE fees, will the Attorney General undertake to ensure the reinstatement of the modest \$110 000 sought for the continuation of this important legal education program?
- (5) If the funding is not provided, what does the Attorney General understand to be the fate of the program?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Attorney General became aware prior to April this year that as part of measures to repair the budget damage left by the previous Liberal–National government, the Department of Education had advised the Law Society of Western Australia that funding for the Francis Burt Law Education Programme would not be renewed beyond its expiry on 30 June 2019.
- (2) The Attorney General wrote to Hon Sue Ellery, MLC, Minister for Education and Training, about the matter on 9 April 2018 and inquired whether the Department of Education could provide a seconded teacher to the program in lieu of the expired funding. The minister advised that should the Law Society secure alternative funding to cover the salary cost of a teacher, the department would be willing to investigate the possibility of a teacher secondment. Any decision to reinstate the expired funding would be a matter for Hon Sue Ellery, MLC, Minister for Education and Training, and this part of the question should be directed to her.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Martin Aldridge: Is this not your answer?

Hon SUE ELLERY: It is his answer.

- (3) From a search taken within the time available, the Attorney General received a verbal representation from the president of the Law Society, Ms Hayley Cormann, and a letter from Mr Matt Keogh, federal member for Burt. I table the attached correspondence.

[See paper 2044.]

- (4) The honourable member would need to direct this query to Hon Sue Ellery, MLC, Minister for Education and Training, as the Francis Burt Law Education Programme has been funded by the Department for Education.
- (5) The Attorney General has not been advised by the Law Society of its plans for the program beyond 30 June 2019.