

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

265. Mr F.M. LOGAN to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:

I have a supplementary question. Does the Auditor General report not now show that the minister has clearly priced many students out of training? That is what the report reads.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

Absolutely not. If the member was keeping up with his portfolio area, he would see that this year the maximum fee increase was four per cent. For apprenticeships and traineeships it was a maximum of around one per cent. The vast majority of those skills areas in which we know there are jobs are being subsidised by 85 per cent by the government. We believe we have this formula right because we do not want to be training people in macramé when we need them to be trained for future jobs.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is what Future Skills addresses, we have kept fees to a minimum, and we will continue to make changes to the training system to improve the viability of our workforce and ensure that we are meeting the needs of the state.