

MINING EDUCATION — REVIEW

**808. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Does the minister support an independently funded review of mining education in Western Australia?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), what action will the minister take to ensure that such a review takes place?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

- (1)–(3) I thank the honourable member for the question. I am not quite sure what she means by “mining education”. Does she mean at the senior secondary level or across the board?

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** School of Mines, Kalgoorlie would be a part of it. There was a full-page story on it in *The West Australian* a week ago and I am surprised the minister missed it.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Dearie me! Tempt me! I am well aware of the situation with the WA School of Mines in Kalgoorlie and the issues that have been there. As the honourable member knows, I am a Kalgoorlie boy and I have had a lot to do with the School of Mines and working with Curtin University and the —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** So why is it closing?

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** There is a real issue, I have to say, with the School of Mines in what is on offer at the moment. As I said, we are continuing to work with Curtin University and the School of Mines. I also did that in my capacity as Minister for Training and Workforce Development. We have to provide opportunities in Kalgoorlie and we are doing that through, first of all, accommodation. We have provided more than \$20 million to upgrade Agricola College. We will completely demolish Agricola College and upgrade accommodation facilities to make it more accommodating and attractive for students to move to Kalgoorlie to go to the School of Mines. That is a fundamental shift and a dedicated approach of the government. As far as offering course portfolios et cetera, I continue to work with Curtin, as I do with all five universities.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Do you support a review?

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** I am answering the member’s question. She might not like my answer, but I am answering her. There are a couple of issues with the replacement of the accommodation; I have covered that. With regard to what is on offer in the curriculum, we will work with Curtin, as I do at the moment on the Western Australian Higher Education Council, to make sure that the course opportunities are appropriate in Kalgoorlie. I am not that fussed about a formal review of mining education, but I will work with WAHEC. If we look at it from a secondary level perspective and providing opportunities from there to transfer into the tertiary sector, what we are providing through the changes with the Western Australian Certificate of Education will definitely draw more people into the science and maths component, which we have seen haemorrhaging over the past five years in particular. They would logically move into a pathway that will include mining, engineering and geology. We will find that more students, dare I say, will be appropriately educated and facilitated to a tertiary pathway or an academic pathway through the School of Mines.

Just to conclude, I do not have an appetite for a formal review into mining at this stage. However, as I said, I meet very, very regularly with Curtin and the five universities, through WAHEC and individually, to ensure we can promote educational opportunities in all areas, and that includes the School of Mines in Kalgoorlie; and I will continue to do so.

CONSTABLE CARE CHILD SAFETY FOUNDATION

**809. Hon ADELE FARINA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:**

I refer to negotiations with the Constable Care Child Safety Foundation about renewal of funding beyond the June 2014 expiry.

- (1) Is it the government’s intention to conclude negotiations before the end of 2013, so that the CCCSF can have certainty in its forward planning; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Will the CCCSF have to wait until the release of the 2014–15 state budget in May 2014 before it knows the amount of funds it will be allocated; and, if so, why, given that this will be only one month before the expiry of the current agreement?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I answer on behalf of the Attorney General. I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

**Extract from *Hansard***

[COUNCIL — Wednesday, 20 November 2013]

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Hon Ljiljana Ravlich; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Adele Farina; Hon Ken Baston

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- (1) It is the government's intention to have a new contract in place as soon as possible.
- (2) The government has set aside funding in the forward estimates for the ongoing funding of the crime prevention in schools program currently delivered by Constable Care.