

JOBS — SKILLED MIGRATION LIST

1298. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the minister's answer on 18 September to question without notice 825, in which the minister stated that the graduate occupation list state-nominated migration program aimed to attract the best and brightest international students to study at Western Australian universities.

- (1) Does the state government consider listed occupations, such as caravan park and camping ground manager, acupuncturist, dance teacher, finance broker, interior designer, television journalist and traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, as examples of the best and brightest?
- (2) Can the minister direct me to comprehensive labour market modelling demonstrating the critical shortage in WA of workers in the occupations on the list?
- (3) Can the minister direct me to comprehensive modelling showing that incumbent Western Australian workers will not be adversely affected by the influx of foreign labour?
- (4) Why has the state government been unable to provide an answer about whether government ministers met with the Australia China Business Council WA to discuss the list?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The purpose of the graduate stream of the state-nominated migration program is to support the growth of the international education sector in Western Australia by providing a small number of the best and brightest international university graduates with a pathway to skilled migration. The best and brightest are selected by a ranking process. As advised in the answer to the member's previous question without notice 825, priority under the ranking process is given to those students who have gained the highest level of qualification at a Western Australian university. There are also other ranking criteria to ensure that the best and brightest are selected on other attributes, such as work experience and English language proficiency. The graduate occupation list is not predicated on the assumption that the best and brightest will be working in only a small number of occupations.
- (2) The graduate occupation list does not indicate occupations for which there is a shortage of Western Australian workers, but, rather, provides a range of occupations to attract the best and the brightest to Western Australia.
- (3) As advised to the member in the answer to question without notice 825, the state-nominated migration program, under which the graduate stream sits, is a capped program. This cap is set by the commonwealth government. The cap of 800 for 2018–19 represents only a small fraction of overall employment in Western Australia.
- (4) On 20 September 2018, I provided supplementary information to question without notice 825, advising that no government ministers have met with the Australia China Business Council WA to discuss the graduate occupation list.