

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING — AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR —  
JARED STONE

**1045. Mr C.D. HATTON to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:**

I note that Western Australia's Jared Stone was named this year's Australian Apprentice of the Year. Can the minister advise what the Liberal-National government is doing to ensure that this state continues to produce high-quality students from the vocational education and training sector?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I thank the member for Balcatta for a question on training. I love the opportunity to speak about training in this place. It is a rare opportunity.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Willagee, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Cockburn!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Jared Stone is my constituent and I am very proud of him. He and his parents are very active members of our community, so I was really thrilled to see him do so well, not only on a state stage in training, but also by winning the Australian Apprentice of the Year Award. He deserves it and his family are very proud.

With respect to the state government's investment in training, we have spent \$66.3 million on VET infrastructure and \$646.4 million on the training and workforce development portfolio. We still publicly fund up to 85 per cent of all our training programs delivered in Western Australia. We have had a nine per cent increase in enrolments in our priority skills area, member for Balcatta. Ninety per cent of our students go on to either further employment —

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Ninety per cent of our students, member for Cockburn, go on to employment or further studies. We have an 87 per cent student satisfaction rating with our system. We have embarked on a program of training sector reform, which I will speak about further as that reform starts to unfold. We have achieved our commitments to those promises we made to the electorate in 2013. We are improving the quality and outcomes for our VET in schools program, and that is a project I have undertaken with the Minister for Education in the other place. Earlier this year, with the member for Central Wheatbelt, we announced a \$20 million investment to reinvigorate the Muresk Institute. We now have a commitment and buy-in from businesses and industry into Muresk, with the Australian Dohne Breeders Association donating 200 ewes to a program at Muresk. We are now offering contemporary training options through Muresk. Indeed, it is going very well. We are offering training programs for the agricultural sector. We have 968 enrolments already in our short courses at Muresk, and we have seen tremendous interest in the advanced diplomas that we are offering through the Muresk Institute. We have doubled the accommodation allowances —

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, you have been called twice.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We have doubled the accommodation allowances available to apprentices and trainees in regional areas, so 900 apprentices and trainees are now supported in their training programs. Our scholarships program for women has been oversubscribed; that program encourages women to go into areas that have low female representation. This is on top of the opening of our new Career Centre at the GPO in Perth. Our Workforce Development Centres are going very well, and Education and Training International is also going very well with international student numbers.

I could go on, but I think our biggest achievement is launching our new Priority Start program. This program has a requirement —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This requires contractors that are looking for government contracts to commit to having 11.5 per cent of their workforce in training or apprenticeships. The program replaces the Priority Start program implemented by the Labor government in 2007, which was unwieldy and administratively burdensome. We now have —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I call you for the third time. Member for Girrawheen, I call you for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We now have industry on side; they need to demonstrate a commitment to training if they want government contracts. It has been a big year, it is a great portfolio, our students are happy, and we are getting tremendous outcomes on the national stage.