

UNIVERSITIES AND STATE TRAINING PROVIDERS — AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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

I have a supplementary question. Members on this side of the chamber know that the minister's management of the training portfolio has resulted in fewer students, fewer courses, higher fee costs, huge job losses and the killing off of key trades. Can we now expect —

The SPEAKER: Can you please just ask the question.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I am coming to it, Mr Speaker.

Can we now expect that this next budget will kill off vocational training in Western Australia faster?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

What a load of rubbish—"killing". What a load of rubbish comes out of that man's mouth! As a result of our Future Skills WA policy, we have seen a nine per cent increase in enrolments in priority skills.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: You are on three calls.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Notwithstanding that we require students to pay a higher amount for their courses, we are still subsidising up to 85 per cent. We looked at the courses and training programs being provided and said that we would put the highest level of subsidisation around the courses that lead to jobs. The result is a nine per cent increase in enrolments in the priority skills areas, which is exactly what we wanted, member for Cockburn. It is working.