

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING — REGIONAL AREAS

**5. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Back to education, when will the Premier listen to our regional constituents, his own members, including the member for Albany, and backflip on his ill-conceived education cuts?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I remind the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, as she might not realise it, but TAFE is actually education.

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** If she goes to a regional town, she will find that there are TAFE colleges out there. I realise that regional towns are not the sort of cappuccino strip areas she normally hangs out in.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The member put up TAFE fees by 500 per cent during her term of office. The Country Women's Association will be very aware of that because country students suffered on her watch.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the National Party!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** They suffered on the member for Scarborough's watch because of what she did.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the National Party!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I will explain again: we are investing heavily in important matters for regional students across Western Australia, whether they are Indigenous or in primary schools, whether it is freezing TAFE fees or whether it is putting in place important capital works.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the National Party!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** All over regional Western Australia, we are doing that. Unfortunately, we also need to make some tough decisions. I will make one closing point. Members opposite are all saying the word "Moora". Why did they not fix Moora Residential College? Members opposite were in government for eight and a half years. They blew the budget by \$40 billion and they did not fix Moora college!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I know we have had a long break, but calm down. We have a long way to go!