

STUDENTS REPEATING YEAR 12

41. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the minister's department's announcement that, from next year, if students wish to repeat year 12, they will be forced to attend one of only four metropolitan colleges, all located within 18 minutes' drive of Perth's CBD.

- (1) How many students will now be forced to leave the familiar environs of their school and travel three hours or more a day to attend one of these sites?
- (2) Noting that the Schools of Isolated and Distance Education will stop enrolling these same students at the end of this year, what will happen to students in remote and regional parts of the state?
- (3) Will this not act as a massive disincentive to young people who are simply seeking to improve their chances of getting on in the world?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for Warnbro for his question and congratulate him on his shadow role in education. I know that he has a lot to learn and I have been helping him.

I think that the member is referring to the issue that we have been dealing with in our schools of adults enrolled in —

Mr P. Papalia: No, kids who want to repeat year 12 because they did not get the marks that they hoped for.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: If I could just continue with my answer, we discovered that the number of people aged 19 years or over —

Mr P. Papalia: No.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Let me finish what I am saying and then we can deal with whatever it is that the member thinks is unanswered.

I discovered in discussions with the department that a large number of people aged 19 years and over—some quite old and into their twenties—are enrolled in schools. I was very concerned about that and various duty of care issues. I do not think that it is appropriate to have adults enrolled across our high schools. An effort has been made to consolidate courses for those people.

Repeating year levels at school is taken on a case-by-case basis. It would be very rare for someone who wants to repeat year 12 to not be within school age. I, for one, would want to see, as the member has suggested in his question, young people within the school age, up to the age of 19, being able to repeat year 12 at the school that they have been attending. I agree with the sentiment of the member's question.