

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

458. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier rule out any changes to the independent public schools program to undermine what has been an internationally acclaimed, successful initiative?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The estimates process is coming in future weeks. If the member has particular concerns about the program, she should feel free to raise them at that point in time. I am not aware of what the shadow minister is referring to, but I note that we indicated prior to the election that we would be keeping that program. I also note that we need to make sure that teachers in regional areas, in particular, are well supported. Under Labor, teachers, in particular, who work in difficult locations in regional Western Australia are supported. That is always the view that I have taken on those matters.