

TOURISM — INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

**942. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Tourism:**

I have a supplementary question. Given the importance of international education to international tourism numbers and spend, when does the minister expect WA to see an improvement from Labor's 32-page international education strategy?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

That is not really a supplementary question. It was about education.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, it is.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** International education is not my responsibility, as the Minister for Tourism.

**The SPEAKER:** Just answer.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** However, I am happy to discuss the fact that we have an international tourism education strategy. That is a positive thing, because there was not one under the previous government. There was no international education strategy. Not only that, but also the Minister for Asian Engagement is launching an Asian engagement strategy. We have a focus on a place called India, we have a focus on a place called Shanghai and we are focusing on direct flights from Japan, all of which are key potential markets for international students.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse!

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Excuse me. You will withdraw that. You said "junior". You will call the minister by his correct name.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** I withdraw.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Everyone knows I am a mid-ranking minister!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Members, this is the last question. I am sure that the junior minister will get to the point!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** That is right; I only made middle rank.

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine!

Several members interjected.

**Mr A. Krsticevic:** I'm holding my own; don't worry.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Never has a truer word been spoken than when the member for Carine said that he is holding his own.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I am on my feet. It has been a long year, but I am not going to get lax over the last couple of weeks. Minister, you will get to the point so we can get on to other business.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I have been to Japan, I have been to China and I have been to India and I asked them what is the single biggest thing we can do to grow international student numbers from those places. Everyone I speak to says to get direct flights. We already have more Indian students in Western Australia than from any other source. The massive market of Shanghai beckons. Japan will grow in the event that we have a direct flight. Those things will help. They are the things that I am working on in the tourism portfolio. I am not responsible for education.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.