

BALLAJURA COMMUNITY COLLEGE — QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

826. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Education:

Is the minister aware that the questions that year 11 and 12 politics and law students at Ballajura Community College had prepared to ask members of shadow cabinet at a question-and-answer session at the school yesterday were censored by the Department of Education and they were instructed to rewrite questions so they did not refer to political matters? Did the minister play any role in that decision?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. No, I am not aware of that. I took a year 12 politics class at Ballajura last week. It was a terrific group of young kids, actually; I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I was aware that the Leader of the Opposition was going to Ballajura, but I was not aware that she would be addressing the politics class.

Hon Sue Ellery: We did not address it. They were at a Q and A. They had to rewrite their questions and they were not allowed to ask anything political.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I would be really surprised if that were the case. They certainly asked me plenty of political questions, I can tell the Leader of the Opposition. If anything, it would not be imbalanced. No, I am not aware of that and I certainly had nothing to do with it.