

TAFE COLLEGES

68. Mr F.M. LOGAN to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:

I refer to the government's third review, which has taken seven years, and the 510 per cent fee hikes, the 11 000 fewer enrolments and the reduced choice of courses that have happened due to the minister's mismanagement of training.

- (1) How can students be guaranteed that these new changes will not result in further fee increases, as has happened so far under the minister's management?
- (2) Can the minister guarantee that students will still be able to access their current courses at their current locations?
- (3) Can she guarantee that no TAFE lecturer or tutor will be part of the 230 employees who will be sacked as part of this reform?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) I will answer the last part of the member's question first. To be very clear, regarding the 230 positions that will go as a result of collapsing this administrative structure, first, we have a high attrition rate in a lot of our regional colleges in particular. Some of those positions will be realised by attrition. We will offer opportunities for redeployment as a first priority. There will be offers of voluntary redundancy. We will handle the transition of those employees properly and with the appropriate level of dignity afforded to people who have a strong commitment to our training sector.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am getting to it, member for Cockburn. No lecturers amongst those —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: To make it abundantly clear to everyone in the house —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Member, perhaps if you closed your mouth and opened your ears, you could hear my answer. No lecturers will lose their job.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie, I have given you a lot of latitude. You cannot just shout out at will here. I want to hear the minister through the Chair. A quick answer, thank you.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No lecturing positions form part of those 230 positions. The purpose of these changes and one of the recommendations of the review—I recommend that all members acquaint themselves with a copy of the review—was better collaboration between the colleges. Our purpose in doing this is to have better collaboration between all the colleges so that we can offer a broader suite of courses to students. Member for Cockburn, yes, students will still be able to access the courses they are enrolled in at the locations they are in on 11 April when this collapsed structure comes into play. That will not change. We increased fees but we targeted —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, you have got 30 seconds to wind this up.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As I have said ad nauseam in this place, we targeted the highest level of subsidisation to our priority skills areas that we know lead to employment or further education. I make no apology for that. We need people to undertake training that is relevant to business and that leads to jobs. That is our purpose and I will not be diverted from my purpose around delivering training outcomes for Western Australians because the opposition objects to collapsing administrative structures.