

EDUCATION FUNDING

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

Why does the Premier continue to claim there have been no education cuts given he has had to backflip on at least 10 of them, including the Schools of the Air, Moora Residential College and the gifted and talented program?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Mr Speaker, it is a strange definition of backflip. If the commonwealth wants to offer us \$8.7 million to put in capital works —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: School of the air —

Mr M. McGOWAN: You asked the question and your question was wrong. If the commonwealth wanted to offer us \$8.7 million to put into capital works at Moora Residential College, we took it. The glummiest people in Western Australia were the Liberal Party. The second glummiest people were the Nationals WA, although it might be vice versa; I am not sure about that. If the commonwealth wants to give us that, that is its choice. If members look at the budget, they will see, across the forward estimates, the total cost of services—Treasurer —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: T-cost going up!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The total cost of services is increasing in the education budget. Members will find that across each agency, we have made savings when it comes to —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: It is \$68 million this year.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do you want to listen to the answer?

We have made savings when it comes to the wages policy we announced last year, which of course means that across each agency, there is a saving. We made a saving in terms of the wages policy —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: It's \$97 million of savings next year—cuts they are.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Mr M. McGOWAN: You do not listen to answers. You do not listen. I listened to your question, then you do not listen to answers.

Members will find that with the wages policy, there was a saving across each agency of government. Members will find that with our reduction in the size of the senior executive service, there was a saving across each agency of government. Members will find in terms of our policy with SES pay, there was a saving across each agency of government. Members will find with the voluntary targeted separation scheme, there was a saving across each agency of government. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand that.