

TAFE — REFORMS

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

I draw the minister's attention to the implementation of the so-called reform process of TAFE, which began on 11 April this year.

- (1) What are the cost savings that have been achieved since the 11 administrative TAFE centres were amalgamated into five?
- (2) Why is the rebranding of the colleges still not complete seven months after the timetable deadline was signed off?
- (3) Why are the colleges and lecturers still unaware of what courses they are supposed to be offering next year, when we are now in mid-November?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) As I articulated earlier when I was talking about reforming TAFE, the expectation is that we will save around \$23 million a year as a result of the amalgamation of our administrative structures from 11 to five. As to the year-to-date cost savings, the member would need to put that question on notice because I do not have that level of detail available on me. The rebranding for some of the TAFEs is not complete. I said to the managing directors of the TAFEs that racing around and putting up new signs was secondary to ensuring that we had a seamless student experience and that we had lecturers in front of all the classrooms dealing with the students. It does not surprise me that we do not have a sign up on every TAFE with the new name. That is not the priority. The campuses are still operating, the lecturers are still there and the courses are still being made available. The students are my priority.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: With respect to some of the courses that are being made available next year, as is usual at this time of the year, the courses are being negotiated and the student numbers are being estimated. Once enrolments open for the TAFE courses for next year, all those courses will be locked away.

Mr F.M. Logan: They are supposed to be preparing for next year and they don't even know.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This is a standard process, member for Cockburn. It is not linked into the reform. This happens every year at the end of the year as the TAFEs start to determine which courses will be available for the following year.