

TAFE SECTOR — STATE MANAGEMENT

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

I draw the minister's attention to the statement at the TAFE directors' national conference by assistant education and training minister, Simon Birmingham, calling for a federal takeover of state TAFE training.

- (1) Does the minister support a federal takeover of Western Australia's TAFE training?
- (2) Has the minister responded to Birmingham's statement calling for a TAFE takeover?
- (3) If the minister has responded, what did she say; and, if she has not responded, when will she make WA's position on this issue clear?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. He is referring to statements made in the media. There was some truth in them, but they certainly did not represent what had actually been agreed to as part of that Council of Australian Governments forum.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In the TAFE sector right across Australia we are looking at the vocational and educational training system, and the federal government does want to reform that area.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Some of the issues facing the sector have been as a result of the federal intervention in this space. There is no desire for the commonwealth government to take over and run our TAFE sector, and as a state government we have made it abundantly clear that we are not interested in having Canberra run our state training providers or our TAFE institutes. It is not going to happen and that is not actually part of the agenda.