

TRADES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

154. Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:

Last Tuesday, the minister announced a scholarship program to encourage women into non-traditional trades. Can the minister please update the house on how this Liberal–National government policy will encourage better equity for women in Western Australia?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Perth for her interest in training and workforce development and for her advocacy for women in her electorate.

I am thrilled to announce the achievement of yet another election commitment in the women's interests and training and workforce development portfolio. The commitment was for a \$1.2 million scholarship program to assist women to move into areas in which traditionally they have a low representation—that is, less than 25 per cent participation. The \$1.2 million over four years will facilitate 400 scholarships with a value of up to \$3 000 each. These scholarships will be available to women over the age of 18 years who have left school and who will undertake certificate III level or above in specified qualifications. Women undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships will be eligible for up to \$1 000 and employers will be eligible for an incentive of up to \$2 000. That funding can go towards the cost of training, learning resources, mentoring programs, fees —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The minister appears to be reading from an official document and I call on her to table that document.

Several members interjected.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: It is not her notes, it is typewritten; I can see that from here.

The SPEAKER: Minister, are you reading from an official document?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Further, Mr Speaker has said in the past that points of order should be heard in silence.

The SPEAKER: That is correct.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Both the Premier and the Deputy Premier interjected while I was making the point of order.

The SPEAKER: Thank you for pointing that out to me. Minister, is that an official document?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No; they are my private notes, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you; minister, continue.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I know that the opposition does not like it, but this is one of our strategies to move women into occupations —

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands—3.5.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This strategy is about moving women into areas in which they have not traditionally been well represented, because we know that they have a higher earning capacity in those areas in which they have not traditionally been well represented. If we want women to go into those areas in which they can earn more money, we need to have some triggers and mechanisms to encourage them.

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mirrabooka!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This scholarship program will bring women into areas such as agriculture, aviation, construction —

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

Suspension of Member

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands, please leave the chamber. I have called you now to order for the fifth time. This is under standing order 48.

[The member for Maylands left the chamber.]

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Areas such as engineering, maritime employment and telecommunications are amazing occupations that women have not traditionally taken the step to be trained and employed in; therefore, they are not being employed to their highest capacity to contribute to the economic future of the state. That is what this program is all about. It has been well received by industry and by students, and our training providers are most excited about it. I look forward to hearing what the opposition's strategy might be around women's interests, but I am satisfied that ours will work.