DRIVING INSTRUCTORS — TRAINING

912. **Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the training of driving instructors.

(1) Why are Western Australian learner instructors required to pass only a Department of Transport theory and practical assessment when every other state requires driving instructors to have a professional qualification?

(2) Is the minister aware that Western Australia is the only state in Australia that does not require driving instructors to undertake a certificate IV in transport and logistics, road transport—; that is, car, motorcycle and heavy vehicle instruction?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

(1) Western Australia has three available methods for a person to obtain a driving instructor's licence under the Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Act 1963, as I am sure the member is aware. They are as follows —

(a) Undertake a theory and highly detailed, instructor-specific practical assessment by trained driver standards officers—a higher functional level than driver assessors, responsible for training and auditing of assessors and instructors throughout the state. The assessment is considerably enhanced from the standard learner driver practical driving assessment, with a commensurately higher passing level and additional units specifically dealing with instruction methodologies and training practices.

(b) Undertake certificate IV in transport and logistics, road transport—that is, car, motorcycle and heavy vehicle instruction—as currently provided by a metropolitan company.

(c) Have past instructional history from other jurisdictions, including overseas, assessed and recognised in whole or part via the Mutual Recognition Act 1992.

(2) The option for undertaking the certificate IV qualification is indeed provided. In the interests of access and equity, especially considering the size and population base of Western Australia, other options, as noted in parts (a) and (c) above, are also available.