

EDUCATION — INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

63. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to an article in *The Australian* of 31 January 2018 which reports that WA is the only state in which overseas student commencements declined last year, as has the value of international students to Western Australian tourism.

- (1) Has the Minister for Tourism made representations to the minister's office regarding the fall in the number of international student enrolments in WA?
- (2) Has the minister encouraged a rethink of the current state skills policy?
- (3) What feedback has been received from StudyPerth regarding the government's changes to state migration policy, which include changes to the state skills list, removal of Perth from the regional sponsored migration scheme and student incentives?
- (4) What consideration will be given to overturning this decision?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Minister for Tourism and I are working closely on increasing the numbers of international students to WA.
- (2)–(4) The government is giving consideration to options that would encourage international students to WA but that would not undermine the government's commitment to putting Western Australian jobs first.