

TRAINING ENROLMENT FIGURES

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

I draw the minister's attention to the recently released training enrolment figures for 2013–14.

- (1) Does the minister acknowledge that the average drop-off of 13.43 per cent in course enrolments for certificate IV to advanced diploma is a direct consequence of his government's massive 500 per cent plus hike in fees for these studies?
- (2) Why has the minister allowed this drop-off in higher educational course enrolments when the figures show a massive decline in the numbers of enrolled students aged between 30 and 49 years—the people who are out there looking for work right now?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) The member is referring to the government's Future Skills WA policy initiative. With Future Skills, we made a deliberate decision as a government to put the maximum amount of subsidisation of our training programs towards priority skills areas for which we know there are employment outcomes. As a result of that policy, we have seen a nine per cent increase in enrolments in priority skills areas, which are the areas that industry tells us it needs people to be trained in, and in which there are jobs for those people.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Notwithstanding that, there has been a nine per cent increase in the priority skills areas in the context of an overall four per cent decline in enrolments. That four per cent decline is across a broad range of areas of training.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Members might be interested to understand that in the training market, training enrolments flex and contract with the economy. When we have large industries contracting with respect to their training contracts with our state training providers, we obviously see a consequential decline in enrolments. As industry contracts, we see positions and enrolments in training in certain areas also contract. But I am actually really pleased to see that we have a nine per cent increase in enrolments in our priority skills areas. Of those people, 85 to 90 per cent who go through a training program in our priority skills areas go on to either employment or further education. That is the outcome we want; the policy is working.