

LEADER OF THE HOUSE — QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE — MINISTERIAL SIGN-OFF

Statement

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [5.13 pm]: I want to bring something to the attention of the Leader of the House in particular. Yesterday, Hon Sally Talbot lodged question C1249 to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development. We were advised yesterday that the minister was not able to sign off on it. We were advised again today that the minister was not able to sign off on the question. I can understand how, from time to time, if a minister is dealing with a piece of legislation in the other place, it might be difficult for that minister to sign off on a particular day. However, given that the minister was here in Perth, in the Parliament, over the two days, I do not think it is acceptable that the answer is not even a request to place the question on notice or a promise to provide the answer in the next sitting week or whatever. It was just that the minister is not able to sign off on the answer. I do not think that that is acceptable.

Hon Peter Collier: I didn't realise that the question had been asked yesterday. I thought it had been asked only today.

Hon SUE ELLERY: There were two questions today that were not answered. That happens from time to time—I am not making a fuss about that—but I do not think it is reasonable for the minister to say that she is not able to sign off on any kind of answer to a question that was asked yesterday, when she has been in Perth and available, I think, to find time to do that.

Hon Peter Collier: I will follow up on that.