

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING — PERFORMANCE

**613. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

I refer to the bungling and backflips in the education portfolio, including the backflip on Moora Residential College, Perth Modern School, the high-rise school in Northbridge, Schools of the Air, the gifted and talented program, community resource centres and Northam Residential College, and numerous other backflips. How many bungles and backflips have to occur before the Premier dumps the Minister for Education and Training, who is clearly out of her depth in managing this important portfolio?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I will tell members what I observed last week. I turned on the news on Monday night, and the saddest, angriest people in Western Australia were in the Liberal and National Parties. They were wild! I could see the fury and bile pouring out of their every comment. On the news that night, of course, it was announced that the federal government had decided to fund the \$8.7 million--\$8.7 million; not \$500 000, as some people have repeated ad nauseam—capital works for the Moora residential facility. So they decided to —

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Yes, the federal Liberal government. I note that there was a little bit of disputation—Liberal or National, who is responsible here? I noted that. I noted the fury and the anger —

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** They can barely contain it now!

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I did note there was dispute between the Liberals and Nationals and One Nation as to who was responsible! I will repeat it: the most unhappy people in this whole thing were the state Liberals and Nationals. They were wildly unhappy when the announcement was made!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Darling Range, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The commonwealth government decided to fund the \$8.7 million, as we always said it was, to put in place that improvement to infrastructure there. I was contacted by the commonwealth government. After some consideration, I said, yes, we would accept that money—the commonwealth government can pay for that. I think it is absolutely true that this government has been better at securing support from the commonwealth government than has any government that the opposition has ever run!