

WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE STUDENTS — PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

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

I draw the minister's attention to the changes announced by the Department of Training and Workforce Development that requires businesses that take on vocational education and training workplace experience students to have \$20 million public liability insurance in place rather than the standard \$10 million.

- (1) Why would the department put such a financial obligation on businesses, especially small business, when they voluntarily take on workplace student trainees?
- (2) How many incidents or accidents have there been in WA businesses during placement of VET work experience students that would require a doubling of public liability insurance?
- (3) If the department has required an increase in public liability insurance as a result of advice, from whom did this advice come?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for Cockburn for this question. With respect to VET and the specifics of the member for Cockburn's question, I will need to get back to him. With respect to the \$20 million public liability insurance cover required by business owners as they take on VET students, my understanding is that the industry is moving and the insurance industry is recommending \$20 million public liability insurance.

Mr F.M. Logan: No; this is your department recommending that.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: My understanding is that this requirement has come from consultation both with the industry and with the insurance industry, and there is a move to standardise a higher level of public liability insurance—\$20 million—for a variety of circumstances. With respect to the other detailed aspects of the question, if the member for Cockburn had given me some notice, I could have provided an answer.