

SCHOOLS — YEAR 7 STUDENTS

**127. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to this government's opposition to the forced transition of rural and regional year 7 students to high schools, requiring some children as young as 11 years old to relocate to cities or regional centres.

- (1) Can the minister advise whether these children and families are successfully adjusting to these changes?
- (2) Does the minister have plans to wind back the scheme; and, if not, why not?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) The first part of the question was about whether I understand how they have adjusted to the change. Was that the first part of the question? Could the member repeat the first part of the question for me?

**Hon Rick Mazza:** Sure. Can the minister advise whether these children and families are successfully adjusting to the changes?

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Thank you for that. I would think that if the member wanted me to answer that properly, he would let me investigate that so that I could give him an accurate answer. I cannot give the member as fulsome an answer as I would like because I did not know he was going to ask the question so I did not seek any briefing notes on it. However, I can say that during the election campaign, we were asked to consider whether we would review the date. Remember, there was an exemption period.

**Hon Peter Collier** interjected.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Yes, and that exemption period ends this year. I indicated that we would review that, but we have not begun that process. Was there another part of the question that I missed?

**Hon Rick Mazza:** Does the minister have plans to wind back the scheme?

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I think I have answered that. We said during the election campaign that we would review it. I note that the former Minister for Education made the point by interjection that at this point not that many are taking advantage of that. Nevertheless, it was an election commitment and we will honour that.