

JOBS — SKILLED MIGRATION LIST

**743. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to the minister's response to my question without notice 679, asked on 23 August, about the planned introduction of a graduate skilled migration list in Western Australia, during which the minister stated that the government's announcement had been publicly welcomed by education providers and business lobby groups.

- (1) Did the state government commission any research into labour market conditions and local labour underutilisation before making the decision to draft a graduate skilled migration list?
- (2) Does the state government concede that using the incentive of permanent residency upon graduation to encourage more foreign students further strengthens the nexus between the higher education system and the immigration industry and effectively serves as a way for foreign nationals to buy backdoor permanent residency?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The compilation of the graduate skilled migration list references the state priority occupation list, which is based on extensive labour market analysis in Western Australia.
- (2) International students are already eligible to apply for skilled visas if they meet the commonwealth government's visa requirements. The new state-nominated migration program, international student pathway, aims to attract the best global talent with advanced qualifications, skills and experience to support growth and diversification of the Western Australian economy.