

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — 2018–19 STATE BUDGET

337. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

- (1) Given that the total 2018–19 Department of Education appropriation will increase by only \$13 000 from last year, can the minister guarantee that, excluding the \$41 million in cuts previously announced, no schools, programs or grants provided to external organisations will have their funding reduced or ceased as a result of today's budget?
- (2) If the minister cannot give this guarantee, will she undertake to table a full list of all cuts on Tuesday, 15 May; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question. She would appreciate that I have been at the table dealing with a bill —

Hon Donna Faragher: You should know; it's your budget!

Hon SUE ELLERY: Perhaps I could give the answer. I do not have in front of me my notes from the budget, so I cannot assume that the first part of the member's question is correct. That is what I am saying.

Hon Donna Faragher: I am asking you to guarantee that you're not going to have cuts.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Perhaps I could give the answer, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT: I am struggling to —

Several members interjected.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Perhaps I could give the whole answer before the member determines that I have not given her a satisfactory answer.

The PRESIDENT: Minister.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thanks, Madam President.

I cannot check whether the first bit of Hon Donna Faragher's question is correct because I do not have my notes in front of me, but I can say this, and I have said it before—budget repair continues; it is an ongoing process. That is nothing new; that is not new news. However, I am pleased with the commitments in the budget for education. There has been an increase in funding. There has been a commitment to serious capital works projects and to putting more resources back into classrooms. I am pleased that we have been able to deliver on those election commitments and we will continue to do that. I am pleased with the programs that we are rolling out in schools across Western Australia. But the answer to the question about whether budget repair has effectively stopped is: no, it has not.