

REGIONAL SPONSORED MIGRATION SCHEME — INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**284. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Tourism:**

I have a supplementary question. Given that the government has changed the regional sponsored migration scheme—that is the issue here, minister, the changing of this scheme—what exactly will the government do to stem the flood of foreign students diverting to other states like South Australia?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

Extraordinary! Is the member suggesting that there will be an exodus of international students from Western Australia because we are not allowing bricklayers and welders to come to Western Australia? As far as I know, international students are international students. They are attracted to Australia and to Western Australia to study.

The objective is to grow the number of international students, not grow the number of welders and brickies because Western Australians are out of work.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** This is my last warning. If this continues, I will stop question time straightaway.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** That was clearly the intent of the Premier's action. We made the commitment prior to the election. We kept the commitment and most people in Western Australia welcomed it.