

STATE TRAINING BLUEPRINT — FUNDING

**382. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Training:**

I refer to the minister's media announcement of Thursday, 12 March in which he outlined the blueprint for the state's training future.

- (1) How much new money has been allocated to the recognition of prior learning component of the plan?
- (2) How much new money has been allocated to enhanced career advice with stronger links with job agency networks?
- (3) How much new money has been allocated to targeted industry consultation and information seminars?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the honourable member for the question.

(1)-(3) I say at the outset that the action plan has been an overwhelming success —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich** interjected.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** I will digress for a moment, Mr President. The honourable member's interjection brings me to a point yet again where I receive constant carping about not doing anything, and that my answers are not what the shadow minister is hearing from the sector. This is the shadow minister who has not attended a single TAFE college since she has been shadow minister—not one. Therefore, the member has no credibility on this issue. The shadow minister cannot sit on the sidelines and carp about TAFE colleges when she has not been to one TAFE college during her time as the shadow minister. The shadow minister is relying on one or two people who are providing misinformation to her. As I have said, until the shadow minister goes out to the TAFE colleges and accesses the views of the people at the coalface, and the lecturers—who are delighted, frankly—her credibility on this issue, as on most of the issues that she deals with in education and training, will be defunct. The shadow minister has the credibility of a cane toad.

I can say to the shadow minister right now that new money with regard to training, recognition of prior learning, career advice and targeted information —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich** interjected.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** I am about to answer the question.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich** interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Minister for Training and Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich, a degree of interjection is fine, but I think the member is overdoing it. The member cannot complain about a question not being answered if she does not allow the minister the opportunity to answer the question.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Thank you, Mr President. I was getting to exactly that.

I keep hearing this criticism from the shadow minister, and it is without substance and without credibility. I would highly recommend to the shadow minister that she spend a bit of time in the TAFE colleges to see the wonderful things that are happening. With regard to recognition of prior learning, career advice and targeted information, the whole part of that process —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich** interjected.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Can I answer the question? Does the member mind? Does the member want me to answer the question? If not, I will sit down.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** There were three questions. I need an answer.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! If Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asks a question, presumably she does so on the basis that she wants it to be answered. If the member constantly interrupts the Minister for Training, he may consider just sitting down, knowing that the member is not interested in the answer. Perhaps the minister can get to the answer he is going to give, because I am conscious that the government—and opposition members and other members—wishes to move onto a particular order of the day and does not want question time to continue for too long.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Thank you, Mr President. I will give the house a prompt response.

Evidently there has been no coordinated approach to RPL, to careers counselling and to targeted information—none whatsoever—in our TAFE colleges. We will have a much more efficient and streamlined TAFE college system. The TAFE colleges will have full accountability. They will be responsible for what goes on within their colleges, because they will have, dare I say it, more accountability from within. We will take away the shackles of bureaucracy. We will ensure that our TAFE colleges are responsible. Essentially, they have not been

responsible. We will take a coordinated approach to the TAFE system from an individual TAFE college perspective. In terms of new funding et cetera, each TAFE college has allocated funds specifically for those initiatives. Those initiatives have been overwhelmingly successful.

In addition to that, yesterday we announced an initiative that goes hand in hand with the action plan that I announced in March. That initiative is a tactical mobile response unit to go out to industries and to areas where people have lost their jobs because they have become redundant or been retrenched and to areas where apprentices have been stood down. That unit is being very proactive. It is actively engaging with the people who are being affected by the economic downturn. For the shadow minister to suggest that these initiatives have not been successful just demonstrates the member's ignorance of the facts. The TAFE colleges have embraced these initiatives overwhelmingly. Industry has embraced these initiatives overwhelmingly. They have been phenomenally successful.