

STATE TRAINING PLAN — FUNDING

269. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Training:

I refer to the minister's announcement of Thursday, 12 March 2009 in which he outlined the blueprint for the state's training future. It states —

The release of the State Training Plan is subject to Treasury budget approval and final negotiations with the Federal Government on the National Partnership Agreement ...

“The program is significant for WA as it will provide up to 74,000 new training places during the next four years,” ...

- (1) When will the minister release the state training plan?
- (2) How much funding has he sought from Treasury for the state training plan?
- (3) How much funding has he sought from the federal government for the state training plan?
- (4) For how many of the 74 000 new training places over the next four years has he requested federal government funding?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)-(4) As I stated in the media release, the state training plan is reliant entirely on the finetuning between the National Partnership for Productivity Places program and the state contribution. It is no different for any jurisdiction; all the jurisdictions have exactly the same problem. Ideally, we wanted this signed off at the end of last year so that we could work out our funding formula for training places, which are dependent upon the agreement with the federal government. It is as simple as that. It is not something we have control over. Any placements we make will be in addition to the 74 000. If we had signed off on this at the end of last year—I desperately wanted it signed off, as did all jurisdictions and Julia Gillard—we would have had no problems. However, it would be sheer folly, ludicrous and totally irresponsible for me to put out a training plan that had flawed enrolment figures. I am sure that if the member were in my position, as she was for a couple of years, she would understand that the formulas for enrolments are very heavily weighted between federal government funding and state government funding. As soon as that is signed off—it is imminent—I will have much more clarity about where we can go and the enrolment figures that we can put in the state training plan. If we were to do that before the t's were crossed and the i's were dotted, essentially the state training plan would have been redundant in a week or two when the funding formula was finally determined. We have put in submissions, but it comes down to budgetary restraints.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: How much was it?

Hon PETER COLLIER: The member will find out when the budget is brought down.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! I take it that the minister has finished answering the question.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I just have one more part to answer.

The PRESIDENT: Please continue, if the minister wishes.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I have just given a rather extensive explanation of why the state training plan has been delayed. It has nothing to do with not having a state training plan or with having no vision. I have made a number of speeches in this place about training since I have taken on the portfolio. I made a ministerial statement, which I thought would have placated the member, but it did not because she obviously did not read it. We have an action plan to deal with the economic downturn. The 74 000 training places apply to the PPP and anything that we do will be above that number.