

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION — LITERATURE EXAMINATIONS

888. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Minister for Education:

Some notice has been given of the question. I refer to the Western Australian Certificate of Education examinations for literature.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the examinations have been marked in the past two years using a new marking method; and, if so, what is the reason for using the new method?
- (2) What other Australian states and what other countries use this method to mark university entrance essays, and for what examinations do they use this method?
- (3) By the advertised closing date this year, how many markers with three or more years of experience did not reapply for positions on the English or literature marking panels, and what is the Minister for Education doing to ensure that there are sufficient experienced markers for this year's examinations?
- (4) Has there been a formal independent review of the new marking method; and, if not, will the minister undertake to conduct such a review and make the results public?
- (5) If there has been a trial or review, will the minister make the results public; and, if not, why not?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) Yes, the examinations in literature have been marked in the past two years using a new marking method. The change was one of the recommendations made by Professor David Andrich, Chapple Chair, University of Western Australia in his 2005 report, "A report to the Curriculum Council of Western Australia regarding assessment for tertiary selection".
- (2) Criterion referenced, a form of analytic marking, is used by New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria to mark extended responses—essays—in English and literature examinations. On the information available to me at this time, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland use criterion-referenced marking.
- (3) The answer to this question cannot be provided in the time allotted; however, an answer will be provided by 29 November 2012. An appropriate number of experienced markers have been appointed to mark each of the 2012 WACE examinations.
- (4) No, there has not been a formal independent review of the new marking method. No independent review is planned or required. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is in the second year of monitoring the use of criterion-referenced marking keys in order to maximise feedback provided to schools on student performance.
- (5) Not applicable.