

OUTCOMES-BASED CURRICULUM CHANGES TO UPPER SCHOOL

470. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:

How will year 12 students be assessed for tertiary entrance in 2007 and beyond under the proposed new outcomes-based curriculum changes to upper school?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for the question. Before specifically answering the question, may I say how proud I am that we are moving into the introduction of an expanded number of subjects in years 11 and 12 to meet the needs of all students for the first time? The honourable member has been quite critical in recent times of this policy direction. That can lead me to conclude only that he is so out of touch with what goes on in education and so out of touch with how the world of work has changed that he lacks the understanding of the requirement to match the changing world in which we live in the twenty-first century with the need for an education system to be able to respond to those changes in an effective manner, so as to provide students with the skills and the knowledge that they need to be able to take their place as productive citizens in the twenty-first century. The member opposite has been peddling some very serious misinformation. I am pleased to say that most of what he has peddled has been unfounded, because if it had been founded, we would be in a very unfortunate position. The member opposite has said on numerous occasions that there will not be any examinations in years 11 and 12.

Hon Barry House: No, I have not. You quote me saying that. I have not said that at all.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: By implication he has said that there is no testing, no standards, no moderation and no curriculum. Quite frankly, is any of it true? No, it is not true. What this member opposite is interested in is -

Hon Barry House: Answer the question.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: All Hon Barry House is interested in is politics. This member, who has been the opposition's spokesperson for education, has not gone into any classroom, not visited any school -

Point of Order

Hon NORMAN MOORE: I have had to raise this point of order on many occasions about answers not being provided by the Minister for Education and Training, who seeks to use question time to make speeches that bear no relationship to the question. Could you, Mr Deputy President (Hon George Cash), ask the minister to answer the question?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will ask the minister to draw her answer to a conclusion, as a considerable number of other members want to ask questions.

Hon Barry House: And Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich should not misrepresent me by saying that I have not been doing this, that or the other.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members! Other members want to ask questions.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I asked the member how many schools he had gone into in the past five months. How many classrooms has he gone into?

Hon Barry House: I will sit and draw them up for you.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Answer the question.

Hon Barry House: No, you answer the question.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! The minister should just address her answer to me.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Thank you, Mr Deputy President. Students will have examinations and they will account for 50 per cent of their assessment.