

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS

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

Further to my question of Tuesday, 23 August about the resignations and retirements from the Department of Education and Training for the years 2001 to mid-2005 -

- (1) How many were teaching positions in each year?
- (2) How many were non-teaching positions in each year?
- (3) How many of the 23 current, unfilled vacancies are teaching positions?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I say to members opposite that they have an absolute walking disaster. Every time Hon Barry House asks a question, I reckon the rest of the members opposite should say, "No, Barry, no. No, Barry, no. No, Barry." Every time Hon Barry House asks a question, he gets himself further tangled up. I cannot believe that Hon Barry House has asked this question.

Hon Barry House: It is a pretty straightforward question.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I know. Hon Barry House is trying to show that teachers are leaving the education system in droves due to the proposed changes for years 11 and 12. It follows on from a question he asked yesterday. Once again, he wants to talk down this state's education system. He wants to tear down a world-class education system. I am in the business of building it up, and he is in the business of dragging it down. These changes should not be dragged down, because they are in the best interests of all students.

Hon Barry House: The question is very specific.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The question is specific, but the member is trying to ascertain that teachers are leaving in droves as a result of the changes that are proposed to be implemented. The simple fact is that that is not borne out by fact. I thank the member for the question.

- (1) In 2001 there were 220 retirements and 402 resignations from teaching positions. In 2002 there were 246 retirements and 314 resignations from teaching positions. In 2003 there were 218 retirements and 256 resignations from teaching positions. In 2004 there were 219 retirements and 180 resignations from teaching positions. No, Barry, no. In 2005 there have been 213 retirements and 185 resignations from teaching positions.

Hon Barry House interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The figure is trending down. Since 2001 the Labor government has put an extra 950 teachers into the education system. Since 2001 the number of resignations and retirements has more than halved. The sort of stuff that the member peddles in schools is a nonsense. I know that he has made statements to the media on this issue, predicated on the fact that there would be an upward trend. He should apologise to the mums and dads for scaremongering and for attempting to drag down the integrity of this state's education system.

- (2) In 2001 there were 127 retirements and 108 resignations from non-teaching positions. In 2002 there were 142 retirements and 235 resignations from non-teaching positions. In 2003 there were 139 retirements and 295 resignations from non-teaching positions. In 2004 there were 144 retirements and 482 resignations from non-teaching positions. In 2005 there have been 141 retirements and 544 resignations from non-teaching positions.
- (3) All 23 currently unfilled vacancies are teaching positions. However, that is not to suggest that people are not working in classrooms and teaching students. Those positions may well be filled by relief staff.

The member opposite should hang his head in shame for publicly making comments that are simply misleading and wrong. He should correct the public record. He should not be allowed to ask questions unless he does it properly.