

USER CHOICE BRANCH - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

- (1) What is the role of the User Choice branch of the Department of Education and Training?
- (2) What part does this branch play in the training placements for apprentices?
- (3) How many people are employed in the User Choice branch?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I am bit curious about why Hon Barry House has started to fire into action since he has lost responsibility for the shadow portfolio, but maybe it is in the absence of Hon Simon O'Brien. I was very surprised to get this question, given how few I got when the member was actually the opposition spokesperson for education.

Hon Ken Travers: He's coming back!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Maybe this is the comeback. The big vote is on tomorrow at 10 o'clock, as I understand. This may be the start of something big.

I am happy to provide the answer.

- (1) The role of the branch is to implement and manage the national User Choice policy, which was endorsed by commonwealth and state ministers in May 1997 and implemented in 1998. User Choice is defined as the flow of public funds to individual training providers, which reflects the choice of individual training provider made by the client.
- (2) The branch manages the contracting of private registered training organisations to deliver apprenticeship training. It has no role in placing individual apprentices in training.
- (3) Six.