

EDUCATION ASSISTANTS — INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS

613. Ms J. FARRER to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. This issue is highly concerning for Indigenous people and for people in the Kimberley. Will the Premier personally intervene to ensure that 17 education assistants are not removed and that the Clontarf program does not cease?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The Clontarf program has a variety of funding. That program will continue and, indeed, it is expanding. It will continue and expand. Most members here have some experience of the Clontarf program. The Minister for Sport and Recreation and I went out and kicked a footy with the guys. It is a good program. The Clontarf program is expanding and it will continue. Innovation has invariably come from this side of the house. Back in the 1990s, the Minister for Health, along with the then Minister for Education, introduced swimming pools into schools. That had a fantastic effect on attendance and the health and physical fitness of kids—good stuff!

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This was a supplementary question that specifically asked the Premier whether he would intervene in the case of the year 6 and 7 boys' program at Clontarf and Kununurra District High School losing 17 education assistants. He is now going into a general discussion about education rather than answering that supplementary question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The issue with Kimberley District High School is a matter for the principal and the director general of Education. If there is something that is unusual or beyond what the school can cope with, it will be dealt with by the principal and the director general.

Mr P.B. Watson: You don't care!

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: If any parties in this house can talk about care, compassion and support for Aboriginal people, they are on this side of the house, not the other side.

Point of Order

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, you advised during one question that if I sought the call to ask the Premier a question in relation to TAB advertising that you would give me the call. I wonder whether you are going to abide by that.

The SPEAKER: I do not remember that at all, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is what you said, and if you are going to make a commitment, you need to remember it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! That ends question time.