

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUPIL-FREE  
DAYS PACKAGE

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

I refer to the government's package announced on the weekend to put \$19 million into changes to the Department of Education and Training professional development and pupil-free days.

- (1) Is this money additional to the 2005-06 education budget announced in May?
- (2) If not, which programs will be cut to finance it?
- (3) Is the allocation of these funds merely a response to the current hierarchy of the State School Teachers' Union, or is it an acknowledgement of the widespread concerns about outcomes-based education in the Western Australian education system?

**The PRESIDENT:** The minister may choose not to answer the third part of the question if she wishes, but that is a matter for her.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Having visited over 60 schools now, or thereabouts -

**Hon Norman Moore:** It was 55 last time you spoke.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** How can the member forget that I was in Albany, given his very close association with Hon Kevin Prince?

Having visited close to 60 schools in the past five months, I have kept my ear to the ground. A number of issues have been consistently raised with me by teachers. I implemented the task force very soon after becoming a minister. I could not have worked any faster, given that I had to follow due process. I accepted all the 10 recommendations of that task force. The task force made recommendations in relation to a whole range of matters, including syllabus, resource materials, and moderation and assessment. It also made recommendations on additional pupil-free days for year 11 and 12 teachers. Frankly, the reforms in years 11 and 12 are the most significant since 1966 when the school leaving age was increased from 14 years to 15 years. I want to give every child in this state an opportunity. I want to make sure that the year 11 and 12 educational experience is relevant to all children, not only those who go on to attend university. It is in direct response to the concerns that have been raised with me and to the undertaking I gave that I will accept the full recommendations of the Robson report.