

THORNIE TAFE, CLOSURE OF WATCH AND CLOCKMAKING COURSE

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

I refer to the watch and clockmaking course conducted at the Thornlie TAFE, which catered for five apprentices and 14 other fee-paying students, with a waiting list of another 10.

- (1) What was the cost of conducting the course?
- (2) When was this course closed?
- (3) Why was it closed?
- (4) Why has the small amount of additional funding not been provided to move the old curriculum across to the new curriculum?
- (5) How will the minister ensure that these apprentices and other students have access to training from now on if the course remains closed?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Department of Education and Training has advised that there is not a waiting list for the watch and clockmaking course.

- (1) The cost to the college of running Certificate II in Timepiece Servicing - the old accredited training program - was approximately \$51 000.
- (2)-(4) In 2005 the old accredited course, certificate II, was superseded by a new training package, Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical Trade MEM30298, as a result of the Training Accreditation Council requirements and in compliance with the Australian Quality Training Framework Standards. The college was prepared to offer the new training package; however, only two students indicated an interest. This resulted in a non-viable class. The college will offer the training package should numbers be viable in the future.
- (5) The two apprentices currently registered with the college have progressed through generic core competencies of the course and the college is working with industry representatives to assist with the validation of the remaining competencies.