

OUTCOMES-BASED EDUCATION

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

In order to clear up the confusion and anxiety surrounding the proposed curriculum changes to years 11 and 12, will the minister explain to the house exactly what outcomes-based education means and why it is considered to be better than the current system?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

First, I want to put on the record that members opposite really have a nerve. Outcomes-based education was actually introduced by Hon Norman Moore.

Hon Norman Moore: It was not. It was started in my time.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Having said that, there is no doubt that outcomes-based education has been around since the mid-90s.

Hon Barry House: What does it mean?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Hon Barry House was in the teaching game. This is the second time that the honourable member has asked this question in this place. Quite clearly, he did not take the time to read the first answer I gave to this question.

There has been considerable community debate about outcomes-based education, which for K-10 has been in place for the last seven to eight years. It was always expected that it would be rolled out into years 11 and 12. There is nothing new about this. It was always going to be rolled out.

Hon Norman Moore: I am not sure that is correct.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I am terribly sorry, but it is absolutely correct that it was going to be rolled out into years 11 and 12. Two things are happening at the same time. We have outcomes-based education being rolled out for an expanded number of subjects in years 11 and 12. With upper school reform, there seems to be confusion about two things. Having said that, there has been some whipping up of hysteria. I would like to think that the member opposite was responsible for it, but I do not think that he is capable of that, because he has only three things on his web site. So far the member has put out about three press releases, so I know it is not him, but he has some good mates. Dr Kevin Donnelly is a good mate. He was on the Liam Bartlett program this morning. He would not allow Greg Robson, the head of the task force, onto the program, but he did invite Dr Kevin Donnelly who has been running the line that his WA-centred web site seems to attract disgruntled teachers. Dr Donnelly, who purports to be an independent critic of outcomes-based education, is a member of the Liberal Party. The transcript of the interview states -

- Donnelly was formally the Chief of Staff to Kevin Andrews, federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, is a member of the Liberal Party and has administrative posts in the Victorian Liberal Party. Donnelly's Liberal bias shows in that he avoids any mention of previous 1990s Liberal Governments' around Australia adopting OBE.

That is, outcomes-based education. The honourable member obviously has not been into a K-10 school for a long time, because he could have asked any teacher in any school and they would have told him what outcomes-based education was. I know he is lazy, because he comes in here and trots out the same stuff.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Has the minister concluded her answer?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Yes, Mr President. It is not helpful for people to whip up this issue, because the fact is that these reforms will continue. It was always the intent that they would proceed into years 11 and 12. The last thing I need is somebody purporting to be an independent critic, who is pedigree Liberal through and through, running an agenda. That is most unhelpful. The honourable member is just as unhelpful.