

CAMP SCHOOLS AND LANDSDALE FARM SCHOOL

616. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the government's announcement that Fairbridge WA and Family Support WA have been awarded a contract to run six of the seven camp schools and Landsdale Farm School.

- (1) Will the government guarantee that there will be no change in the affordability of and services offered at the camps?
- (2) How can the government guarantee this when all it is offering is \$250 000 a year and the 2017 operating deficit was \$3.8 million?
- (3) Will the Premier table the contract signed with Fairbridge WA and Family Support WA?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the Leader of the Nationals WA for the question. If last Monday was the saddest day for the Liberals and Nationals in Western Australia, Saturday was the second-saddest day, because the Minister for Education and Training solved the issues surrounding the camp schools and Landsdale Farm School and ensured that they will continue to operate. Again, they were gnashing their teeth. Again, they were so angry that this has happened.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Nationals!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It appears now that they are attacking Western Australian regional icons like Fairbridge—they are attacking Fairbridge now!

Ms M.J. Davies: No, no.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, that is what they are doing. Fairbridge has had a long history of operating camps. It has put in place labour market programs, it undertakes training and it undertakes coaching and mentoring for young people in Western Australia. It is an ideal organisation to run the so-called camp schools across the state. I think that is a reasonable outcome for Western Australians. I think most Western Australians would think: fair enough. As part of that process, of course, the taxpayers of the state will be getting back more than \$3 million a year to help pay off your \$40 billion worth of debt. There we go; that is the solution we have come up with. Members opposite seem to hate that now. It is hard to keep them happy. We resolved the issues of Moora Residential College using commonwealth money—it paid for it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: This will be of interest to you. I will give some credit to the Liberals and Nationals.

The SPEAKER: Members, I want to hear what the Premier is saying.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will give some credit to the Liberals and Nationals, if you like. I have a clipping from 4 September from the *Drive* program. The Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Michael McCormack, was on the program. He is the National Party leader federally. He was being interviewed on the program. He was asked about Moora Residential College: How did this deal come about? To whom had his office been talking over in Western Australia? He responded: "Well, look; certainly Mia Davies, and Colin Love."

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: You made a big impression on him, member for Moore!

Going back to the question, the government's requirement is that the costs will be similar and affordable. That will be the arrangement that we will put in place. I think it is a good outcome for Western Australia. Family Support WA will run the Landsdale Farm School. That is an organisation of parents with children with disabilities. I think that is a good organisation as well.