

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING — REGIONAL AREAS

**8. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. The Premier is now on record three times protecting this Minister for Education and Training. How many more bungles will the minister be allowed before the Premier sacks her and restores confidence in the education system in this state?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Hon Sue Ellery is a very capable person. Members of the upper house who deal with her will freely acknowledge that she is a capable person who juggles a lot of issues at any one time. She is a member of cabinet who has the responsibility of working with cabinet to resolve issues, in particular, in financial management —

**Mr V.A. Catania** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Well, you will never be a member of cabinet.

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** She has responsibility to resolve the issues that the government inherited. It is a difficult job because no-one enjoys making savings measures and tough decisions but that is the situation the state is in. We are required to make tough decisions in difficult circumstances. That is what this Labor government is doing to repair the damage done by the former Liberal–National government.