AUGUSTA PRIMARY SCHOOL - STAFF

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

After constant unsettling staff changes at the Augusta Primary School over the past decade, why have enthusiastic, capable and committed staff members, who have effectively filled the roles in an acting capacity for the past year and who wish to continue, not been appointed to give the school and the community some much-needed continuity and stability?

The PRESIDENT: Before I call on the Minister for Education and Training, I think Hon Barry House is aware that that question is somewhat argumentative.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

They usually are, Mr President, but I will carry that burden. I do thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

Hon Simon O'Brien interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Hon Simon O'Brien should not get excited. We are not used to him being awake in this place; we are used to him sleeping. Therefore, he should just go back to the way he was.

I am advised that the Augusta Primary School principal is currently acting in a higher level position in another school. The relieving principal was selected from a pool of applicants to fill the temporary position. The relieving principal's role will be extended for 2007.

Teacher placement in government schools must comply with public sector standards, as outlined -

Hon Simon O'Brien interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I say to Hon Simon O'Brien that it is very difficult for me to concentrate on providing an appropriate response when he is constantly carrying on and making noise of irrelevance while I am reading.

Hon Robyn McSweeney interjected.

The PRESIDENT: The Minister for Education and Training has the call.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Mr President, I will start that paragraph again.

Teacher placement in government schools must comply with public sector standards, as outlined in the Public Sector Management Act 1994 and the department's published transfer policy. It is a requirement that all positions of 0.20 full-time equivalent or greater be filled through central placement processes or, if the school is a local selection site, advertised and filled through a local selection process. Augusta Primary School is not a local selection school and therefore is staffed by the central transfer process. Due process has been followed in filling the vacancies at Augusta Primary School for 2007.

Hon Barry House: I wasn't talking only about the principal. What about the other positions in the school?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The member should have asked about them.