

CURRICULUM CHANGES FOR YEARS 11 AND 12 STUDENTS

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

- (1) Is the minister aware of a recent survey of 125 English and media teachers which was referred to on 6PR on Monday, 12 September 2005, and in which -
 - (a) 123 of 125 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Curriculum Council has not addressed their concerns; and
 - (b) 120 of 125 respondents did not support the implementation of the English and media courses of study in year 11 in 2006?
- (2) In view of the results and the continuous widespread concerns expressed by virtually all educational organisations, will the minister now admit that the government has not made the case for the curriculum changes in years 11 and 12 from January 2006 and immediately delay their introduction?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

Again, I put on record once and for all: I will not be delaying the implementation of the four new subjects for next year. I will certainly not be delaying the implementation of subjects in 2007. I have made public that if one or two of the courses are not ready for implementation, they will not be implemented. Having said that, I am happy to provide the honourable member with the following response.

- (1) I am not aware of the survey to which the honourable member is referring. However, the information from that survey does not tally with results from the recent Curriculum Council survey conducted with 317 English teachers at professional development sessions at which teachers were asked about the extent of their confidence in their knowledge of the outcomes standards assessment requirements and implementation. Highly confident responses were registered for the questions as follows: 85 per cent, 86 per cent, 91 per cent, 94 per cent, and 95 per cent. There is increased confidence with each professional development day completed by teachers.
- (2) The new courses have had bipartisan support over the past seven years, with extensive consultation and endorsement of courses by heads of education sectors-systems over this time. There is no case for delay of the introduction of courses.

I also add that I am not in the business of denying all students access to quality education. That might surprise the member.

Hon Simon O'Brien: You have said that.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I will not deny students coming back into years 11 and 12 an increased range of subjects - a full range of subjects. When Hon Barry House becomes the Minister for Education, if he ever does, he can operate in whatever way he wants to. I will operate with the best interests of all Western Australian students at heart because that is my priority, and there will be no shift in position.

The PRESIDENT: Hon Giz Watson.

HON GIZ WATSON: I have been advised that there is no answer to the question I was going to ask.