

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

**209. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. The Premier is one term too late. He obviously has not checked his Facebook page —

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Roe! This is an opportunity to ask a direct, simple question, not to have a preamble.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Why did the Premier not disclose up-front the other methods of accessing this payment for those people who are having challenges in the community?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

Not only is the opposition opposing cost-of-living measures for Western Australians, but it is now the megaphone for the conspiracy theorists and the “cookers”. That is the calibre of people opposite. The sorry mob opposite us is so desperate to attract attention that they look at the bots and trolls that occupy a lot of social media space and decide to back them. The member for Roe is backing the wrong horse. I suggest that he gets behind the Minister for Education and the great work that he is doing. The minister has made it very clear that people can access these payments through a range of measures, but we have been at pains to point out that the most effective and quickest way for people to get these payments with the most integrity is through the ServiceWA app. As of this afternoon, almost 60 000 Western Australians, representing around about 100 000 students, have already made applications using that process. Over one million people have registered on the ServiceWA app and 60 000 have gone forward and applied for this cost-of-living payment. If the member is watching social media, he should watch it more carefully because he will see that Western Australians love the WA student assistance payment and are continuing to get behind us by getting online to get the payment that they deserve.