

POST-SCHOOL OPTIONS PROGRAM — SEAMLESS TRANSITION TRIAL

**681. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Disability Services:**

I refer to the seamless transition trial conducted in 2007 by the Department of Education and Training to provide for a smooth transition of students with high support needs in education support schools into post-school options.

- (1) Given that the department intends to continue the program in 2008, is the Disability Services Commission intending to also provide additional support to these school leavers; if yes, what additional support will be provided; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Will the minister consider bringing forward both the granting of funds and commencement of the PSO programs to January of each year to improve the transition from school to post-school options for these young people; and, if not, why not?

**Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:**

I thank Hon Donna Faragher for some notice of the question to which I provide the answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Disability Services, who has provided an answer in the following terms.

- (1) Yes. The commission will be providing additional funding to enable those students chosen to participate in the DET seamless transition trial to start their alternative to employment programs earlier than in the past.
- (2) Additional funding will be available to enable an earlier start in 2009. PSO program time frames are determined by the individual service provider. It should be noted that all students, regardless of whether they have a disability, have a Christmas and new year holiday break and that the alternatives to employment service providers are closed over Christmas and new year to allow their staff to take leave.