

OUTCOMES-BASED CURRICULUM, INQUIRY BY EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING
COMMITTEE

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

I have a copy of the question so that the minister can refer to it during her answer.

Several members interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I refer again to yesterday's announcement that the Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee will conduct an inquiry into the proposed changes to the post-compulsory curriculum in Western Australian schools.

- (1) Was the minister aware that the inquiry was being established, chaired by our former Legislative Council colleague Hon Tom Stephens, and did she approve the inquiry?
- (2) Will the minister give an assurance that teachers and other public servants working in the education system will be able to provide evidence and appear as witnesses to this committee inquiry without any impediment or fear of victimisation?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

Before I respond directly to the question, what I will say now is very important to this debate and relates to both the past and the future. In 1994, when Hon Norman Moore was the Minister for Education, he established a review, chaired by Therese Temby, the then Director of Catholic Education. The review reported to government in 1995, and a key recommendation was to establish a curriculum council to develop and implement a curriculum framework for all schools. The Court Government introduced the Curriculum Council Bill in 1997 to commence the curriculum framework implementation. That curriculum framework was to operate on an outcomes-based approach, as recorded on page 2968 in the 1997 *Hansard*. The framework has operated without a break in its implementation since its inception under then Minister Moore to the present. The coalition proposed to fully implement the curriculum framework from kindergarten to year 12 by 2004. Members can refer to the minister's speech in the *Hansard* of 2000.

Hon Norman Moore: Who was the minister?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Hon Colin Barnett was the minister. However, Hon Norman Moore made the following comments about the curriculum framework and outcomes-based education -

The 1997 bill was to introduce -

Hon Barry House interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Hon Barry House asked a question so he should listen to the answer.

Hon Peter Foss: Answer the question.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I will get to it.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Hon Norman Moore stated -

The curriculum framework will utilise an outcomes based approach. This represents a major shift away from a focus simply on educational inputs and timetables towards one which emphasises the desired results or outcomes of schooling. By making known at the outset the intended outcomes or expected results, the appropriate components and the time required can be identified and included in the curriculum rather than simply loading the curriculum with unnecessary material and classroom sessions.

That was recorded on page 2968 of the 1997 *Hansard*. It continues -

The real power -

Hon Peter Foss interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Bear with me. It continues -

of an outcomes based approach to curriculum development is that the driving force behind the curriculum will always be to make it possible for students to actually achieve the outcomes. For example, outcomes will include students understanding the meaning, use and connection between addition, multiplication, subtraction and division, and students writing for a range of purposes and forms using conventions appropriate to audience and context.

That is what Hon Norman Moore said and it is recorded at page 2968 of the 1997 *Hansard*.

Point of Order

Hon NORMAN MOORE: As much as I like hearing what I said 10 years ago on behalf of another minister, it has nothing to do with the question. As we have a limited question time, would the minister make a ministerial statement to that effect and at this time answer the question that was asked.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure the minister is about to address the question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Absolutely. I was very keen to put that on record. I was very keen for members opposite to understand the genesis. Is the member saying he disagrees with Hon Norman Moore? Is that what he is saying?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Is he saying he does not support his former government's policies? Put it on the record. That is what the member is saying. He is a hypocrite.

Point of Order

Hon PETER FOSS: I am on the end of the line now and I know from the rate at which Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich is going on, we will run out of question time before we get to four questions. I would like the minister to say that she will not answer the question or answer the question.

The PRESIDENT: I look forward to the minister now answering the question. We have made sure in recent question times, despite lengthy answers, and they are not all to questions on agriculture, that everyone gets his or her first question at least. I will endeavour to do that again today with some assistance from the minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: In direct response to the question asked -

- (1) No.
- (2) I will certainly be having a look at education protocols that deal with teachers presenting before an inquiry.