

- (2) Is the state government willing to provide legal advice to local government authorities unable to comply with regulatory and non-regulatory functions asked of them by the state government due to inadequate resources?

Hon JON FORD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The intergovernmental agreement between the Australian state and territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association was signed by the Western Australian government on 21 April 2006. The IGA was developed in response to the November 2003 report of the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration, "Rates and Taxes: A Fair Share for Local Government". This report recommended the development of an IGA to address the issue of cost shifting onto local government. The Local Government and Planning Ministers Council discussed the committee's report at its meeting on 13 February 2004 and in June gave in-principle support for the development of an IGA on local government relations. The objectives of the IGA include providing for greater financial transparency between the three spheres of government on local government services and functions. In addition, the IGA aims to improve the relationship and consultation between governments on local government matters. The IGA does not attempt to define cost shifting but addresses it by obtaining in-principle agreement from governments that when a responsibility is devolved to local government, local government is consulted and the financial and other impacts on local government are taken into account.
- (2) Local governments also receive substantial financial support from the state and commonwealth governments. Specific requests for funding are considered from time to time. I have given a commitment to local government to carry out a number of major consultation processes in relation to the IGA to look at these specific issues. It is also the main agenda item for the ministerial council meeting in August. I intend to consult with WALGA and I am already talking to local governments on those specific issues.

TEE SUBJECTS - SYLLABUSES AND PROGRAMS

470. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Minister for Education and Training:

- (1) Will the minister confirm that teachers of current tertiary entrance examination subjects will be able to teach their subjects in 2007 with identical syllabuses and existing programs?
- (2) Will the minister confirm that no new content will be assessed in the examination for the first cohort of year 11 and 12 students for those courses replacing TEE subjects?
- (3) Will the original and now discarded courses of study be implemented in 2008?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for this question. Before I provide the specific answer, I wish to say that there are no discarded courses of study. I have said time and again that 17 courses of study will be proceeding in 2007, and 17 courses of study will be proceeding for 2007. I have also made the point that we will be responding to teachers productively to see them through this issue. Irrespective of everything the member has been involved with, even to the extent of accusing me of blackmail, I must tell the member that he might take forgery and blackmail -

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister for Education and Training has been asked a question and she is getting very close to breaching one of our standing orders. Minister, I invite you to answer the question, otherwise I will give the call to another member.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: With all due respect, Mr President -

The PRESIDENT: The Minister for Education has been asked a question. She should please answer it or sit down.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: With all due respect, I do not like being accused of blackmail. People have not questioned my integrity and honesty. I take offence when I am accused of blackmail on the front page of the daily newspaper.

Hon Simon O'Brien: What was that about?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: That was a very desperate attempt by *The West Australian* in Saturday's paper to accuse me of blackmailing the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia. I have here the response in Sunday's paper, which is headlined "Teachers Say Yes".

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) All the new subjects will proceed.

OUTCOMES-BASED EDUCATION - KEVIN DONNELLY

471. **Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD to the Minister for Education and Training:**

Mr President -

Hon Simon O'Brien: Let's see if she's psychic. You sit down without asking it and she can give the answer for you.

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD: Now, peanut!

The PRESIDENT: I have given Hon Graham Giffard the call. If Hon Simon O'Brien wants to have a conversation outside, there are certain procedures that can be put in place.

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD: Can the minister advise whether Dr Kevin Donnelly, who is currently visiting Western Australia to lobby against outcomes-based education, has previously visited the state to lobby on this or any other matter?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I assume that the honourable member is referring to the independent education expert, Dr Kevin Donnelly. This is the same independent education expert who has received eight separate contracts to the value of \$795 000, a component of which has been acquired from the Howard government and, prior to that, the Kennett government. The interesting thing about the independent education expert providing this advice is that not one of those contracts to the value of nearly \$800 000 ever went to tender. The independent education expert also happened to be the former chief of staff to Kevin Andrews. When Dr Donnelly, the independent education expert, visited Western Australia in 2000, he was a great supporter of outcomes-based education. Since then, he has been very much anti-outcomes-based education. When he was in WA in 2000, he was working as the Asia-Pacific consultant for the tobacco giant Philip Morris. He was promoting the I've Got the Power program in primary and junior high schools. He met with students while promoting this program in an outcomes-based format. I have that outcomes-based format with the major learning outcomes and the overarching statements. The member may like to look at it.

We have gone from 2000 when Dr Kevin Donnelly, the independent education expert, absolutely loved outcomes-based education while working for tobacco giant Philip Morris, to his being a very, very strong critic of outcomes-based education in more recent times. I would love to ask the independent education expert, Dr Donnelly, what has happened in between. In 2000, health experts actually warned the then Minister for Education, Colin Barnett, that the I've Got the Power program would encourage children to smoke. Minister Barnett ran him out of town, as did every other state and territory minister around this country. Yet Dr Kevin Donnelly is back in WA.

Dr Donnelly has been contracted by the federal government to run down each of the states' education systems. In WA, for example, he has been a real champion for going back to plain English in education. Big deal! If we want to know how plain English Dr Donnelly himself is, we should look at his 1993 doctorate from La Trobe University. The doctorate was a defence of a liberal humanist view of education against the progressive neo-Marxist and post-modern attacks of the left. The thesis was entitled "The New Orthodoxy in English Teaching: a Critique and Analysis and Critical Evaluation of the New Orthodoxy in the Teaching of English as Exemplified by the Victorian Experiences". This is the guy who wants us to go back to plain English. Quite frankly, this fellow is an absolute joke. Clearly, he is an absolute hypocrite and he should be called to account over why he has done a 360-degree turn in his position on outcomes-based education.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES

472. **Hon RAY HALLIGAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Housing and Works:**

- (1) What are the government's affordable housing initiatives?
- (2) How many households would be eligible for assistance within these initiatives?
- (3) How many households have been assisted in each of the following years: 2001-02, 2002-03, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to date?

Hon KATE DOUST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. Mr President, given the time and your predilection for succinct responses, I table the answer and seek leave to have the response incorporated in *Hansard*.