

ONE STEP CLOSER PROGRAM

411. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Youth:

I refer to the One Step Closer program that plays such an important role in supporting at-risk youth in Armadale.

- (1) What has this government done to ensure that this program continues to support young people in my community?
- (2) Further to that, what other programs and initiatives is this government funding to ensure the entire community is supported?

Mr P.C. TINLEY replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for Armadale for the question. No member in this chamber who has been here for any time would need convincing about the advocacy of the member for Armadale in his electorate. Even the most cursory glance of his Facebook feed shows him as the everywhere man. I thank him for his advocacy. I, too —

Mr W.R. Marmion: He should be a minister!

Mr P.C. TINLEY: When we have so much quality—when we are overflowing with quality —
Several members interjected.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: There is a great sense of future on this side of the house; do not worry about that, members. Unlike the minibus over there, we have a depth that we can rely on. We bat much further than 11!

The SPEAKER: Yes, minister.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: It is no surprise that the member for Armadale has been a strong advocate for programs such as Save the Children and One Step Closer, which he has been working with. Of course, his advocacy has been very strong in the area. The McGowan government's local projects, local jobs program is the latest tranche of funding for youth. It has allocated \$365 000 for 12 projects aimed at helping young Western Australians to develop life skills and improve their employment prospects. Among the recipients —

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: That is slack!

Mr P.C. TINLEY: What?

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: You're reading! It's a dorothy dixer and you're reading!

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Looking after youth, are you saying, is—what—a waste of time?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, it is not a chat room. Minister, talk through the Chair and make it quick. Then we can get one more question in.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I will refer to my notes one more time, just for the purpose of detail. If members opposite want me to table them, I will; that is no problem.

The One Step Closer program is among the recipients receiving funding —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I am trying to get you an extra question. If you keep interjecting, you will not get it.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: No, no, keep going; I love the interjections! Bring on the interjections!

One of the programs in the member for Armadale's electorate—the One Step Closer program—will receive \$220 000, which will provide the pathway opportunities that young people in the south east corridor deserve, and have long deserved. It is overdue. In eight and half years, they never got it from members opposite. More than 50 Aboriginal children alone attend the program. They would never have got the sort of attention that they deserve under the previous government. It is just a disgrace!