

NAPLAN — RESULTS

**555. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:**

I have a supplementary question. The minister acknowledged that there are shortages of staff in the system. Is he concerned about the increase in the use of relief teachers on a permanent basis, especially in regional schools?

**Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

I am not quite sure of the connection, but I will answer it in any case. Relief teachers have always been a part of the system. I was a relief teacher back in the 1980s! When I went back to full-time study, it was under a conservative government in Western Australia, and I was being called every day by the education department for relief teaching. It is a normal practice; it has always been the case and will remain the case. There is a shortage of teachers in Western Australia, in Australia, and the world. We have in place a number of strategies to address that, but it cannot be changed overnight.