

WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS

503. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Tourism:

I have a supplementary question. Will the WA Labor government continue to push for there to be no change to the visa for the extension of their stay in the regions?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I understand that the Minister for Training is in charge of this issue, and she has the details. Yesterday the minister spoke to us about the work that she is doing at every opportunity. I understand that the Premier will continue to raise at national cabinet the need for more workers in WA, ensuring that we can support industry across the state, whether it be in tourism or construction, particularly housing construction, and continue to work within the federal system to support more workers in WA.

We have seen a bit of a shift. We have seen a federal government willing to support the visa system and to actually staff the visa system so it can process applications compared with the reluctance and the backlogs that existed under the previous government. The Minister for Training is working very hard to make sure we continue to support industry in WA and have an excellent dialogue with all industry to support visas and also migration into WA.