

TEACHER SHORTAGE

**473. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I have a supplementary question. How many secondary school teachers are currently teaching subjects for which they have no formal qualifications or experience?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I am advised it is very few. Members might often find that somebody who is a history or English teacher teaches a subject called society and environment. What is unusual about that? Somebody trained as an English teacher might teach law and politics. Somebody who is trained as a physics and chemistry teacher might occasionally take a class in maths. Did that not happen when the opposition was in office?

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** It is happening at an exceedingly greater rate now; much more than ever before.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It is absolutely normal that teachers undertake a range of tasks.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** We know that your figures are not true because we get reports every day about the shortage of teachers.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I have the expert on education here - the Leader of the Opposition. He is a person who, as we can well tell, is an expert on education. He knows a lot about it.

**Mr T. Buswell:** Did you get an implant when you were in the Navy?

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We have the very brave Deputy Leader of the Opposition opposite. He has always been there on the front line. We saw his job application the other day in the *Sunday Times*. He is so brave that he stabs the member for Kalgoorlie in the back. He is so brave that he is now, through his job application, stabbing the Leader of the Opposition in the back. He is a very brave man. Back to the question. What was it again?

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Let me go back to the beginning.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Unfortunately for the members for Murdoch and Vasse, it was not their question. Member for Murdoch, in your instance you interjected before the minister had even got to his feet. Member for Vasse, it was not your question and I do not think that your leader particularly needs your assistance. You are both called to order for the first time.