

AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSION RANK — PARTICIPATION

88. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question. Is the minister concerned that these numbers may be linked to a fall in regional Australian tertiary admission rank participation due to many students not having ATAR-qualified teachers in front of them and being restricted to School of Isolated and Distance Education online learning?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

Our concern is that there is an overall drop. The drop is not happening just in the regions; it is happening in the cities. The premise of the member's question is completely wrong. It is not due to a lack of teachers at all. It is due to the lack of students undertaking the course. For instance, last week I was with Hon Hannah Beazley at the awards presentation at Government House for general exhibition and subject exhibition winners and the Beazley Medal. I had a conversation with a father afterwards whose son won one of the subject awards. His other son is seeking to do one of the higher level maths courses. There is not a lack of teachers at the school; there are teachers there. The only problem is that he is the only student who wants to do it. Do not try to create false narratives.

Mr P.J. Rundle: They aren't even false.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Where is the proof that there is a lack of ATAR teachers? Where?

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Where is the evidence? The members know there is not.

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Do not mislead this Parliament! I have been to many schools in the regions, as the member very well knows.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes question time.