

TEACHERS — RESIGNATIONS

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

I welcome that regional education funding. I refer to data revealed in the Legislative Council that shows resignations of teachers have more than doubled in three short years from 604 in 2020 to 1 275 in 2022 and are already 1 021 to 31 August this year.

- (1) What is the minister doing to reduce the mass exodus of teachers from our education system?
- (2) Does the minister attribute this doubling of resignations to a lack of support from his department and the increasing workloads?

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

- (1)–(2) I definitely do not agree with the part of the member's question saying that there is no support from the Department of Education. The department is providing considerable support to our teachers, and we continue to work towards providing much more support. I just announced the attraction and retention incentive scheme for remote communities of over \$15 million. That is there to support our students. The attraction and retention initiative is there to attract and retain teachers. We are also looking at other support we can provide. We provide programs that will help teachers go on in-services and to access professional wellbeing counselling. We are seeing what we can do to remove red tape, which I mentioned yesterday. We are looking at how the curriculum can be delivered in a way that reduces stress on teachers. We are also looking at how we can improve the wellbeing of students, because obviously if students are in a better space, they are more likely to engage in the education process, which will then improve the job satisfaction of teachers.

We are committed to ensuring that we provide an environment that will attract teachers to come to and stay in teaching, but this is challenging. It is challenging in Western Australia. The member's question could have been asked in the Parliaments of South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, the Northern Territory or the ACT. It is a common problem throughout Australia. The question could be asked in the House of Commons in the United Kingdom as well. Teaching today is a different profession from what it was five, 10 and 20 years ago, but the government and I are committed to ensuring that we provide the best possible environment for our teachers and our students.

**The SPEAKER:** That concludes question time.