

SCHOOL CLEANING

**293. Mr J.H.D. DAY to the Treasurer:**

I refer to the revelation in the estimates committee hearing that the decision by the Minister for Education and Training to require all schools to use in-house cleaning staff will cost an additional \$3.302 million a year.

- (1) Does the Treasurer support this decision, which will have the effect of diverting \$3.3 million a year from providing better educational programs to Western Australian children to pay back the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union?
- (2) If so, how does he reconcile his support for the interests of the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union with his responsibility as Treasurer to ensure that Western Australian taxpayers receive value for money for the services they pay for?

**Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:**

- (1)-(2) It appears that the member for Darling Range thinks that the responsibility of the Treasurer is to be anti-union. I do not regard that as part of the job description of the Treasurer. The government has made a decision that cleaning in schools will be done in house. That is an appropriate decision.

**Mr T.R. Buswell** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Vasse to order for the first time.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** How many kickbacks did you get? Tell us.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order and direct that he withdraw that comment.

**Mr P.D. OMODEI:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** Judging everyone by your own standards.

Several members interjected.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure obviously could not help herself and made a comment that was not parliamentary, and I think she should be asked to withdraw it.

**The SPEAKER:** I heard the comment. I did not think it was unparliamentary. I thought it was warranted given the attack made by way of the unparliamentary behaviour of the member for Warren-Blackwood.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr E.S. RIPPER:** The government has decided to endorse in-house school cleaning. That is an appropriate decision for the government to make. We on this side of the house have support for the idea of a school community. We recognise that school cleaners not only clean schools but also have associated roles that are valuable for the rest of the school community. It is not appropriate simply to measure the cost of cleaning under one model against the cost of cleaning under another model without taking account of the standards of cleaning and the role played by school cleaners in the community.

It was appropriate for the government to make that decision and we made it in the context -

**Mr T.R. Buswell** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call to order the member for Vasse for the second time

**Mr E.S. RIPPER:** We made it in the context of very robust financing of the school system. Members opposite should look at the education budget, see the strong growth and note that funding for government school students has increased by 25 per cent in real terms since our election. That 25 per cent increase in real funding for each government school student provides the context in which the government has made that decision.