

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF TEACHING - MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

I have a supplementary question. Why is the minister forcing schools to develop a contingency plan to deal with teachers who are deregistered, when he has known about this problem for six months; and how can he expect the schools to have a contingency plan to replace those teachers when there are no teachers left?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Honestly, Madam Deputy Speaker! There will be very few, if any, teachers who do not pay their, in effect, \$50 fee to keep their jobs. A \$50 fee is in effect half a morning's pay for a teacher. Do members opposite think anyone will give up their job over that, particularly when they get to become a member of a professional body that the teachers' union itself called for, and for which this Parliament jointly voted? If the Leader of the Opposition thinks people should not be responsible and show some responsibility, that is his problem. He has shown complete irresponsibility the whole time on these issues. I have on record the shadow Minister for Education objecting to working with children checks. We are trying to keep people with sex offences out of the classroom, and the shadow Minister for Education objected to it. The Leader of the Opposition has come in here objecting to something which was in his election platform and was agreed between both sides and which will mean that teachers are registered as part of a professional body, as are virtually all professional groups in this state. I expect very few, if any, teachers will not pay a \$50 fee - half a morning's pay - to be a member of their professional body.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I say to the member for Vasse and the Leader of the Opposition that to interject on what was a supplementary question in, frankly, an unparliamentary manner is beyond the pale. I allowed the Leader of the Opposition who asked the question a bit of latitude, but that is now finished. They are both called to order for the first time.