

OUTCOMES-BASED EDUCATION

**189. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier guarantee that the premature rollout of outcomes-based education will in no way negatively impact on the standard of education provided to our years 11 and 12 students?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

I could stand around arguing about this for a very long time. If it was believed by the education community or the Curriculum Council that the introduction would have a negative effect, we would not be pursuing it. We hear all sorts of examples of how this new model is inferior to the previous one. The Leader of the Opposition has asked this question. Can he tell me whether in years 11 and 12 today the study of Australian history is compulsory?

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** I'm asking the questions here; you're answering them.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I will tell the Leader of the Opposition one thing. I have a daughter in year 11 who is studying history, so I know a bit about it. I have a daughter in year 10, another in year 8 and another in year 6. I know a bit about the education system. We have heard from the Prime Minister about how we are no longer taught the way we were about the classics. Can the Leader of the Opposition get on his feet and recite a bit of Shakespeare for us? He is a man who makes his living in the political world and has been educated under that traditional model that served us so well and provided us with such a rich and deep knowledge of our culture. Can the Leader of the Opposition tell me who the second Premier of Western Australia was?

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** That's a good question.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** He would not know. Because of the problems with the people who have been through the system previously, and because we used to turn out hundreds and thousands of children who could not read and were innumerate, we have introduced all sorts of changes to our education system for the better, so that every student going into a school can have the expectation that he or she will emerge after 12 years of education literate, numerate and able to engage in the modern economy. That is why we do it. They must be able to think critically and be successful citizens. The commentary we receive is redolent of the notion that somewhere or other there was this golden age of education, when we were all studying the works of the ancient Greeks, and we could all walk around talking about Pythagoras or stroll together reciting Shakespeare. It is utter nonsense, and the questions from the Leader of the Opposition and his lack of ability to answer a simple return question demonstrates it.