

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 31 May 2011

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES A AND B ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I refer to page 92 and the heading "Professional Development and Training". This follows on from a question I asked earlier, but it is better asked of the Public Sector Commission. What types of programs is the public sector implementing and putting in place to acquire skills? There is a shortage of skilled people in the workplace. The mining sector and other sectors are now going to universities and recruiting people very early; they are putting in place all sorts of programs to get people into their sectors. What types of programs is the public sector implementing for attracting and retaining young entrants?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I think it would be best to ask the acting commissioner to outline the programs.

Ms F. Roche: Again, that is Dr Schofield's area, and he would be happy to outline what we are doing in terms of graduates.

Dr K. Schofield: We are offering a range of programs. We have leadership development programs that we offer to chief executive officers and senior executive service members; that is quite a big component of our leadership development offerings. We also provide a number of training options for different occupations.

We have recently done some work with human resource practitioners and policy practitioners. We are providing those for free to the sector and utilising skills within the Public Sector Commission and within the sector as a whole to deliver a lot of programs that we used to contract out. We have actually internalised a lot of that and are using a lot of our own skills.

We also have programs to develop graduates; we have a graduate program that we run each year. We also run traineeship programs for school-based trainees and business trainees. We are looking at accrediting most of those privately in the future towards a public sector training package.