

EDUCATION CERTIFICATE**Tuesday 9 May 2006**

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Education and Children's Services a question about the federal government proposed Australian certificate of education.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: A report prepared by the Australian Council of Educational Research has found that a standard education certificate is needed for all Australian schools. It recommends the establishment of a national standards body to set core content in different subjects and achievement standards based on international benchmarks. The federal government proposes that the existing nine state based matriculation certificates be replaced by a single Australian certificate of education awarded by each state and territory. This will allow the results of students in different states and territories to be compared for the first time. Despite the possibility of this type of assessment beginning as early as this year, the minister stated in *The Advertiser* on 6 May, 'We are pushing ahead with our reforms (to the current South Australian Certificate of Education) and will examine the federal minister's report.' My questions to the minister are:

1. Given that the proposed Australian certificate of education may replace the South Australian certificate of education if it is agreed by the state government, why is the minister not postponing the implementation of its own reforms to the current SACE regime until a decision whether to adopt the ACE has been made?
2. If the minister pushes ahead with reforms to the South Australian certificate of education at a cost of \$54.5 million, how will she justify this expense to taxpayers if it is superseded by the proposed Australian certificate of education soon afterwards?