



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Question Time

11 May 2017

EDUCATION FUNDING

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (14:47): My question is directed to the Premier. How can the Premier praise the Federal Government for its education funding when schools in my electorate will be \$10 million worse off over the next two years.

The SPEAKER: Order! Government members will come to order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:48): I acknowledge the member's question and I reiterate that so long as the Liberal-Nationals are in government in New South Wales her community has nothing to worry about.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Bankstown that she is on three calls to order. If she continues to interject she will be removed from the Chamber.

Ms GLADYS BEREJKLIAN: Because the member for Wallsend is honourable—I am sure all members will concede that—she should ask her leader how he anticipates raising the money to support our education system in New South Wales.

He does not put out policies often but when he does they have nothing to do with raising funds, fiscal responsibility or education. In fact, his most recent policy demonstrates how out of touch he is as it was not about education, fixing the budget or anything else. It is one thing when politicians are in government to act in an arrogant fashion but it is another thing when they are in opposition. The policy proposal put out by the Leader of the Opposition involved relocating the Office of the Premier and Cabinet room to one of Sydney's pre-eminent public buildings—the Chief Secretary's building on the corner of Bridge and Macquarie streets. This will not only cost \$35 million—

Ms Jodi Mc Kay: Point of order: Madam Speaker, on this side of the House we value education. I know that the Premier is of talking about it, but could she answer the question?

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. I advise the member for Strathfield not to make such remarks in my presence.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Exactly. The member for Strathfield suggested that Labor members care about education but in all the years that I have been a member in this place they have not put forward a single proposal as to how they would fund education in New South Wales. The most recent policy announcement of the Leader of the Opposition last month will cost the State \$35 million. If he ever occupies the government benches—I shudder at the thought—he would be more concerned about where his office would be rather than where classrooms and hospitals would be or where Labor would build road and rail projects. Labor members do not support infrastructure projects but they support relocating the Office of Premier and Cabinet.

Mr Clayton Barr: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 52. Madam Speaker, you made a ruling and Government members are flouting that ruling.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: If members want confirmation about how out of touch this policy is, I will read to the House the description of the kind of office to which the Leader of the Opposition would like to relocate. His policy document states, "The vestibules feature black and white patterned marble tiled floors—

Mr Guy Zangari: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! I have already ruled on relevance. Does the member for Fairfield have a different point of order?

Mr Guy Zangari: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73 and Standing Order 129, relevance. Offices of a future Premier are not relevant to the question asked by the member for Wallsend.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will hear further from the Premier. The member for Fairfield does not need to elaborate. He will resume his seat.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Let me demonstrate what Opposition members would be like if they occupied the Government benches. I hate to think of it. They do not care about raising money to support our schools or hospitals but they do care about where their offices are. The office is described as follows, "The vestibules feature black and white patterned marble tiled floors, plaster barrel-vaulted ceilings and terrazzo marble structures". I do not know what they are.

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. I want to hear what the Premier has to say about the question asked by the member for Wallsend.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier just demonstrated how her answer is relevant to the question.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I think I have made my point. Whilst Government members care and are worrying about where to deliver schools, hospitals, roads and rail, the Leader of the Opposition is busy working out where he would like his office.