



FISHING AND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY TRAINING 6 November 1996

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Last week the fishing and seafood industry in South Australia reached a milestone. The first trainees in a 12-month fishing industry training program were presented with certificates following the successful completion of their course. After a long battle to convince the master fishermen and then an even longer battle to convince others, South Australia has led the nation with the first trainee scheme for young people wanting to enter the fishing industry. Fifteen young men were recently presented with certificates at a function in Port Lincoln, and it was a very proud Chairman of the Fishing and Seafood Industry Training Council, Mr Hagen Stehr, who informed me that, of the 15 young people who had successfully completed the training program, 12 had full-time work in South Australia's tuna fishing industry.

Masterminded by the Fishing and Seafood Industry Training Council, the 12-month trainee program responds to industry training needs. Its purpose is to skill the next generation of employees and to ensure the sustainability of the industry. The program provided on-the-job training for approximately nine months of the year with a further three months spent in TAFE classrooms. The training ensured that these young men reached competency standards in vessel handling, radio telephony, rope work, weather forecasting, safety in fishing operations, senior first aid, elements of shipboard safety certificates, coxswain's certificate of competency and diesel engineering operations, thus ensuring them of full-time employment opportunities.

Funding was sourced from both the State and Federal Governments, with a great deal of commitment being expressed by senior members of the fishing industry. The employment outcomes for these young men have been particularly pleasing and clearly demonstrate what can be achieved when Government and industry work together in a spirit of cooperation.

Mr CLARKE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

A quorum having been formed:

Mrs PENFOLD: Mr Stehr encouraged the young men, saying that they had chosen a very worthwhile industry in which they could look to the future with confidence. Bob Miller, Executive Officer of the South Australian Fishing and Seafood Industry Training Council, said the fishing industry in every other Australian State had contacted him requesting the manuals and data relating to the successful South Australian exercise.

When other States want what we have achieved, it is very satisfying for everyone in South Australia. Mr Stehr praised the work of TAFE and the role it played in delivering its part of the training program. Mr Stehr's enthusiasm was matched by that of the students who said they now had a greater understanding of the role they had to play in making the fishing industry safer and more sustainable.

Mr Stehr also acknowledged that the master fishermen had to be convinced that training was necessary to take them into the twenty-first century. However, he said every other fishing nation in the world was already undertaking industry-based training, with the Japanese leading the way. Apparently, the Japanese have a complete university totally devoted to training for their fishing industry. I also believe that the South Australian Brown Liberal Government can take some of the credit for the success of this new training program, as it was the new Industrial Relations Act which permitted the industry to negotiate an enterprise bargaining agreement allowing the training program to get under way. However, the union movement almost torpedoed the program when it opposed the enterprise agreement in the industrial court—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.