

MEDIA STATEMENT



Tony Simpson MLA

Shadow Minister for Forestry; Volunteers; IT & Communications

29 January 2007

Liberal idea saves computer courses

The Carpenter Labor Government has sensibly bowed to pressure from community demands and lobbying from the Liberal Party to maintain funding for popular IT training programs.

Shadow IT & Communications Minister Tony Simpson successfully lobbied to have the First and Second Click courses receive funding for another three years.

“The State Government has finally listened to common sense and recognised the high value these courses have for the community,” Mr Simpson said.

First and Second Click are training courses providing free instruction in basic computer skills which benefit a wide group, including people having trouble finding work and the elderly.

“From the many people that have contacted my office about this program, I have heard nothing but the highest praise,” Mr Simpson said.

“IT and other computer skills are increasingly important in the workplace and in life.

“These courses enable people to use computers to obtain jobs or participate in activities that they otherwise would have missed out on.

“I am glad that the government will continue the program and am only disappointed that they created the concern over its cancellation in the first place.

“In recent months they have cancelled, altered or cut the funding for a series of IT related programs and it would have been an outrage if the First and Second Click programs followed.

“Hopefully this is a sign that the government is finally listening to the Liberal Party and common sense when a bipartisan stance is argued.

“Instead of cutting IT related programs, the Carpenter Labor Government should be increasing them and investing in WA’s future economic prosperity.”

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