



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 28 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT Shafston International College

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 a.m.): The government has moved swiftly to determine if all is in order with Shafston college. As instructed, Education Queensland officers will meet today—that is, Wednesday—with the governing council of Shafston International College. This follows Monday night's airing of allegations against its former college president.

As well, the Department of Employment and Training will conduct an audit of the institution in conjunction with Education Queensland under section 37 of the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000. If any criminal matters are found, the information will be provided to police. Education Queensland is seeking an explanation from the governing council about its actions in safeguarding the welfare of college students. It seeks an assurance from the governing council that the college has proper processes in place to ensure student safety. The governing council is cooperating fully with the department.

Education Queensland is responsible for the accreditation of four of the college's higher education courses. As well, the Police Commissioner yesterday ordered a review of an original investigation and that associated file. Police had received a complaint in relation to a male person. Those matters had been investigated and it was determined that there would be no further action. There was, however, insufficient evidence to pursue the complaint. There have been no other formal complaints. However, if people have new information and would like to make a fresh complaint or if people feel an offence has been committed, they should immediately contact police. If, through any of our audits or reviews, any criminal matters are found, the information will be provided to the police.