

Question on Notice
No. 1989
Asked on 6 October 2010

Mr Cripps asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the results of the state secondary school curriculum audits for state secondary schools in and servicing communities in my electorate of Hinchinbrook, including the Northern Beaches State High School, Ingham State High School, Tully State School and Innisfail State High School / Innisfail State College?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Bligh Government is the first state government in Australia to introduce this open, transparent auditing practice in schools, designed to assess key curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment practices at schools.

Using a review of international best practice as a benchmark, this ground-breaking audit ensures that every Queensland school has a clear set of findings at its disposal, which can be used to identify areas where performance can be improved as well as affirm good practice where it is already in place.

Based on a key recommendation from Professor Geoff Masters' review of education in Queensland, the Teaching and Learning Audits process ultimately provides a platform of information on how education is delivered in our schools.

Schools, with the support of the principals' supervisors, use the audit recommendations to improve teaching and learning outcomes for every state school student.

School communities then work together to formulate local responses and identify the next steps required in order to improve performance across their schools.

Teaching and Learning Audit results give each and every school the ability to target specific areas for improvement by providing clear recommendations to guide improved practice.

I have been advised by the Department that the Audits provide information to individual schools and are not suitable for, or intended to be used as, a rating system comparing one school with another.

I am also advised that the results of the Teaching and Learning Audits conducted at schools in the Hinchinbrook Electorate provide important information to the schools' communities for use as a diagnostic and developmental tool in relation to school improvement. Principals actively engage with their school communities to discuss this information and strategies to improve student learning at the school. The recent 2010 Showcase Awards illustrate the exceptional innovation and best practice of principals and teaching staff across Queensland state schools, significantly improving the achievements of students.