

Question on Notice

No. 579

Asked on 21 August 2013

Ms Palaszczuk asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (MR LANGBROEK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Action 12 in the Great Teachers = Great Results plan which states that from 2014, independent public schools will be able to 'outsource teaching support and educational services and generate other forms of income'—

Will the Minister advise (a) if principals will be able to outsource the functions performed by teacher aides from 2014, (b) if the implementation of Action 12 will allow schools to hire staff performing teacher aide functions at lower wages and working conditions, (c) how independent public schools can be expected to fund themselves and (d) whether future funding sources for independent public schools could include fees?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and interest in our Government's initiative to provide school's with greater autonomy, cut red tape and remove layers of management to provide improved outcomes for students.

The reference in *Great teachers = Great results* to outsourcing teaching support and educational services means that, should they wish to do so, schools will be supported to market their innovative programs to others and use any resources realised to benefit their school. It does not relate to outsourcing functions performed by teacher aides.

The implementation of Action 12 is not to allow schools to hire staff performing teacher aide functions at lower wages and working conditions but rather is to provide schools with the flexibility to account for, and address, differences in their students' needs, the character of their school communities, and the school's capacity to make the most of local opportunities.

Independent Public Schools will continue to receive funding and resourcing under the same allocative models used to fund all Queensland state schools. In addition, Independent Public Schools will receive \$50,000 as an initial transition grant and \$50,000 per year to assist with administrative costs.

Independent Public Schools will have no greater ability to charge fees than all Queensland state schools; and are required to comply with current legislation that governs the charging of fees in state schools.

All Independent Public Schools remain part of the strong state school system and will continue to operate within the system enacting the same core values, beliefs and priorities.