

Question on Notice
No. 621
Asked on 10 September 2013

Mr Minnikin asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what is being done to reduce red tape and increase disciplinary powers for school principals in the Chatsworth Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Queensland Government is committed to reducing red tape and enhancing local decision-making opportunities for all Queensland state school principals, including those in the Chatsworth Electorate.

A group of experienced principals has been formed to provide the Department of Education, Training and Employment with practical advice on ways to reduce red tape for schools. These principals will help to ensure red tape reduction measures achieve real change to remove unnecessary bureaucratic processes and lessen administrative burdens on schools. Mr Paul Robertson, Principal of Whites Hill State College, located in the Chatsworth Electorate, is a member of this group.

Rectifying the issues raised by principals is a very important priority for my Department and officers are systematically working to address the concerns that have been raised.

Recently the group of principals met to provide advice on the redesign of the Variation to School Routine (Excursions) process and the redevelopment of the 1 School 1 Plan format. I am advised the redesigned format of 1 School 1 Plan received unanimous support from principals for its efficient and user-friendly format.

Other examples of changes that have been implemented to reduce red tape include enabling schools to utilise up to 5% of their Direct to Market maintenance allocation to hire support for administration and project management and removing the audit requirement for schools to provide paper copies of documents where electronic equivalents already exist.

My Department is also undertaking a review of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* to progress legislative amendments that will further assist in reducing red tape in schools. As part of this process, on 20 August 2013, I introduced the *Education (Strengthening Discipline in Queensland State Schools) Amendment Bill 2013* into Parliament.