

Question on Notice

No. 818

Asked on 19 November 2013

Mr Minnikin asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (MR LANGBROEK) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the benefit for Chatsworth school principals with the introduction of greater discipline powers in 2014?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

On 1 November 2013, the Queensland Parliament passed the *Education (Strengthening Discipline in State Schools) Amendment Bill 2013* (the Bill) which amends the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* providing state school principals with greater autonomy and flexibility around discipline.

The legislative amendments stem from the Queensland Government's action plan, *Great teachers = Great results* which is focused on lifting teaching standards and giving all state schools, including Chatsworth schools, more autonomy to get on with the job of providing a safe and supportive learning environment to achieve the best educational outcomes for students.

The Bill confirms and strengthens a principal's authority in the school regarding matters of discipline and empowers school leaders to make decisions about how best to respond to inappropriate student behaviour. The Bill introduces a general head of power that gives principals the clear authority to adopt optional disciplinary strategies including Community Service Interventions, Discipline Improvement Plans and outside of school hours detention. These strategies are designed to address inappropriate student behaviour and provide an alternative disciplinary response prior to resorting to suspension or exclusion.

For all schools, the Bill has removed over-prescription, which impedes a principal's ability to apply quick and firm responses to inappropriate behaviour. It has cut red tape and simplified processes to facilitate effective and timely decision making.

The Department has developed a suite of resources designed to support and guide principals and school staff in their implementation of the legislative changes. Training will also be made available on the reforms, changes in legislation and policy and changes in OneSchool.

The powers afforded to state school principals through this legislation will allow Chatsworth school principals to work with their school communities to develop strong approaches to managing student behaviour.