

Question on Notice
No. 81
Asked on 4 March 2014

Mr Knuth asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (MR LANGBROEK) –

QUESTION:

With reference to Independent Public Schools (IPS)—

Will the Minister advise (a) what data will be used to analyse IPS applications, (b) how this data will be used to select schools for the next round and (c) how many schools will be accepted into the IPS program commencing in 2015?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

The Independent Public Schools initiative is a key election commitment of the Queensland Government that will see 120 schools become Independent Public Schools between 2013 and 2016.

In 2013, 26 schools became the first Independent Public Schools in Queensland. Due to overwhelming interest, 54 schools were selected to become Independent Public Schools in 2014, bringing the total so far to 80.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is currently finalising the process and criteria to be used to review the 2015 Expressions of Interest, and the number of schools to be approved as Independent Public Schools for 2015.

A range of information and data will be used to assess schools' suitability including school performance data, Teaching and Learning audit information and NAPLAN results.

Most importantly, schools will need to demonstrate their ability to assume greater responsibility for their operations; outline the potential benefits for students and the broader school community; and highlight the innovative educational programs or practices the school will implement to improve student performance.

The Department will make information on the process and criteria available to all state schools in Term 2 this year. It is expected that the new Independent Public Schools for 2015 will be known by mid-2014.

To support schools, a series of information sessions will be run during Term 2 and it is likely these will include web conferences, face-to-face information sessions and the opportunity to discuss the criteria and application process in small groups with key department staff.

This is a great initiative that will continue to evolve into the future. Under the Government's *Great teachers = Great results* action plan, all state schools will have the opportunity to become independent from 2016 providing they meet required standards.