

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 37 ON THE REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT 16: 2013-14 RESULTS OF AUDIT: EDUCATION SECTOR ENTITIES 2013

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 7 August 2014, the Education and Innovation Committee tabled Report No.37 in relation to the *Review Of Auditor-General's Report 16: 2013-14, Results of audit: Education sector entities 2013*.

The Queensland Government response to the Committees' recommendation and expressions of interest in information is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the House notes the contents of the report.

Government Response

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for consideration of the report.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Education, Training and Employment request all statutory bodies within the education sector consider and adopt the Better Practice Guidelines on delegations, supplier engagement and preparation of financial statements developed by the Queensland Audit Office.

Government Response

The recommendation is supported. The Minister for Education, Training and Employment has written to all statutory bodies within the education sector requesting that they adopt the Better Practice Guidelines on delegations, supplier engagement and preparation of financial statements developed by the Queensland Audit Office.

Committee expression of interest 1

The Committee expressed an interest in information from the Minister for Education, Training and Employment regarding the support provided to the two Ipswich grammar schools in 2013.

Government response

The Department of Education, Training and Employment continues to work very closely with both Ipswich Grammar School and Ipswich Girls Grammar School regarding their fiscal repair. Officers meet with the school representatives each quarter to discuss and monitor ongoing financial performance. Each school provides a thorough set of quarterly financial reports to the Department, and these are assessed in liaison with the Queensland Treasury Corporation. To date, both schools have continued to improve their financial position and performance from previous years.

Committee expression of interest 2

The Committee expressed an interest in information from the Minister for Education, Training and Employment regarding results of the review of the *Grammar School Act 1975*.

Government response

The Department of Education, Training and Employment advises that the review of the *Grammar School Act 1975* resulted in all grammar schools confirming in writing their intention to fully comply with the obligations and their desire to retain statutory body status under the Act. Grammar schools enjoy significant benefits not available to other non-state schools, including access to borrowings from Queensland Treasury Corporation and State land holdings. With these benefits come the obligations and responsibilities that apply equally to all Queensland statutory bodies and it is not possible for grammar schools to be exempt from these obligations while they retain statutory body status.