

NEWSFLASH

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TO QTU REPRESENTATIVES

Please provide a copy to the Principal

Please distribute immediately to all members

Student Responsibility Package

Background

The QTU has identified three high priority areas in its annual Budget Submission:

- student behaviour;
- school buildings and maintenance; and
- students with special needs.

Student Responsibility Package

The State Government must introduce a **Student Responsibility Package** which:

- Includes in the new Education Act an "objective" which requires employing authorities to ensure that schools are indeed safe learning environments;
- Maintains the current provisions for suspension, exclusion and cancellation of enrolment;
- Establishes a requirement that students who are suspended have an alternative education setting and program available. There should be a requirement that the Education Department provides facilities, staff and support to ensure that the alternative program can actually be delivered wherever possible;
- With reference to the provisions outlined above, establishes 40 Student Support Centres, staffed by between two and five teachers and appropriate counselling and guidance staff to provide programs for students at risk (150 fully-funded teacher numbers). The Department must identify suitable facilities for such Student Support Centres, including retention of a number of the "stand alone" pre-school centres which the Department currently plans to sell off, following the establishment of the Prep. Year;
- Establishes an Education Department policy on behaviour standards required in our schools;
- Provides a centrally-funded professional development program for classroom teachers and school administrators in relation to dealing with behaviour management issues;
- Showcases schools that have been successful in maintaining excellent behaviour management standards;
- Includes the issue of behaviour management standards in the performance reviews of Executive Directors and Regional Executive Directors;
- Includes in the new Education Act provisions which allow schools to enforce school uniforms, including appropriate sanctions for non-compliance. Provisions will also be required to ensure access to school uniforms for those students unable to afford them;
- Establishes a Brisbane Central City State College as an alternative, middle/high school to cater for students unable to cope with a regular schooling environment (50 fully-funded teacher numbers);
- Ensures better coordination between schools, Student Support Centres and other government agencies in terms of assisting students at risk;
- Reviews current Departmental investigation guidelines to ensure that teachers and principals do not continue to be harassed through vexatious and malicious complaints;
- Commits to a rigorous review and endorsement of individual school behaviour management plans to ensure schools are not left "high and dry" by District Office personnel when behaviour management plans are implemented at individual schools; and
- Provides 50 fully-funded teacher numbers to be made available on a short/medium term basis to individual schools experiencing difficulties with student responsibility issues.

Membership Action

Schools have been previously asked to contact the Premier, the Education Minister and the Treasurer in relation to our State Budget Campaign (see Newflash 04-05 "State Budget Campaign"). Members will need to include the issue of student responsibility in their correspondence.



John Battams
General Secretary
16 March 2005