

UNLOCK YOUR SCHOOL'S FUTURE

Expressions of interest open for 2012 intake of Independent Public Schools

■ How can schools take part?

Principals can only nominate to become an Independent Public School with the support of the School Council. An independent selection panel recommends schools to the Director General, based on how the expression of interest demonstrates the school's capacity to assume greater responsibility for its own affairs, the level of local and staff support, and the potential benefits for the school community.

■ What does it mean if my local school becomes an Independent Public School?

One of the WA Government's major pre-election policies for education was to empower school communities, giving them greater capacity to shape the ethos, priorities and direction of their school. The initiative began in 2010 and 98 WA public schools are operating as Independent Public Schools. They are freed from many central controls and have greater flexibility to respond to their communities. They create more diversity in the public school system and provide a real choice for school communities.

■ How will my school change if it becomes an Independent Public School?

Your school will change according to the needs and expectations of your school community. There will be more freedom and flexibility for the school community to make decisions about important matters that impact on your children's education such as curriculum, student support, staff recruitment, financial management, governance and accountability.

■ Can Independent Public Schools do what they like?

Independent Public Schools remain part of the public school system and, like all public schools, are bound by the *School Education Act* and industrial agreements.

■ What kind of schools will be selected?

A diverse range of schools is selected in each intake including country and metropolitan schools from all socioeconomic areas. Many types of schools are already represented, such as district high schools and education support schools; primary and secondary schools; and clusters of schools.

■ What happens to schools which choose not to become Independent Public Schools?

These schools continue to operate as normal.

■ Can my child attend the local school?

The creation of Independent Public Schools does not change a child's right to enrol in their local public school. Enrolment procedures do not change and Independent Public Schools continue to provide education to students in the local intake area. Enrolment procedures for Gifted and Talented programs remain the same.

■ What are the fees and charges at an Independent Public School?

Independent Public Schools are bound by the *School Education Act* and *School Education Act Regulations*. The structure for contributions, fees and charges remains the same as all public schools.



■ **What are the uniform requirements of an Independent Public School?**

The uniform requirements are determined by the School Council (Board) in consultation with the school community.

■ **What will be taught in Independent Public Schools?**

Independent Public Schools are bound by the *Curriculum Council Act* and Curriculum Framework. They must meet these requirements and future curriculum requirements of the Australian Government.

■ **Can Independent Public Schools select their own staff?**

Yes, they select all staff and have greater control over the types of positions in the school. This allows each school to select staff who best meet the needs of that school. The School Council (Board) plays a significant role in selecting the principal.

■ **What does it mean for my School Council?**

The School Council becomes the School Board. Strong community and industry representation is encouraged to ensure each School Council (Board) makes a significant contribution to the development of the school. Induction is provided for new and existing School Council (Board) members.

■ **How are Independent Public Schools held accountable?**

Independent Public Schools must comply with all legislation and industrial agreements and are subject to financial audits. A Delivery and Performance Agreement is signed by the principal, Director General and chair of the School Council (Board). The school is independently reviewed in the final year of the agreement (up to five years) and the report is made public. The school also produces an annual report and business plan signed by the School Council (Board).

■ **What does it mean for my Parents and Citizens' Association?**

The important role and functions of Parents and Citizens' Associations do not change.

