

28 July 2010

North Queensland Political Candidates Questioned on Education

Principals of some of north Queensland's leading independent schools will have an opportunity to question federal candidates in the key seats of Herbert and Kennedy on education policy this afternoon.

The Townsville meeting is part of a three-week regional briefings tour by Independent Schools Queensland Executive Director David Robertson.

Strategic briefings are also scheduled to take place in Mackay, Cairns, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts.

Mr Robertson said schools were currently facing a significant period of change and principals had a wide variety of important matters to discuss.

"NAPLAN testing and moves towards a national curriculum as well as proposed changes to class structure and the governance of schools are making a big difference to the way school principals perform their job and prepare for the future," Mr Robertson said.

"Progress made on the education revolution and trends in funding along with future funding policies will also be on the agenda for discussion.

"This regional tour is an opportunity for us to update schools on these changes and answer any questions or concerns they have about how teachers and students may be affected."

Mr Robertson said the tour had been planned for some time but the election campaign provided the opportunity to involve local candidates.

"Similar political forums have in the past been highly successful and allow a frank and open discussion about what the various parties have planned for the education sector," he said.

Mr Robertson said as well as keeping schools informed the tour would help Independent Schools Queensland to accurately reflect the concerns of its members when formulating submissions and responses to proposed federal and state government policies.

"Independent Schools Queensland represents 180 member schools and this tour is designed to ensure the unique needs of our regional-based members continue to be met," he said.

This afternoon's (28/07/10) meeting will take place at 4pm at Townsville Grammar School. Local candidates have been invited to attend from 5:30pm.

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