



State Election Update No. 1

2 December 2011

Education Commitments from Political Parties

A number of political parties have announced education policies this month in the lead up to the State Election which is due in the first half of next year.

GOVERNMENT/ALP

23 November 2011: The Premier announced *From Mines to Minds: A proposal to establish a Queensland Education Trust*. <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=77791>

The paper proposes the establishment of a multi-billion dollar Queensland Education Trust (QET) using 50% of future LNG royalties – projected at more than \$1.8 billion in the next 10 years. The Government proposes two options;

Option 1 – Individual Trust Accounts for Education – an individual endowment that would mean every newborn child would have a nest egg valued between \$7800 and \$9500 when they turn 18 or;

Option 2 – Dedicated Education Fund – an investment fund where the proceeds are reinvested by Government in education and training initiatives beyond the basics throughout the schooling years and potentially beyond.

The Queensland Government is asking for feedback on the QET by 17 February 2012. Please see link above. ISQ has been invited to attend the Premier's Forum on 12 December to provide initial feedback. We will also make a formal submission which we will make available to members.

ISQ's media release in response to the announcement is [online](#) at the ISQ website.

More Affordable Kindergartens

Extending kindergarten subsidy to all Health Care Card holders saving them more than \$1100 on fees per year. <http://www.qld.alp.org.au/01/cms/details.asp?ID=1539>

Local Decisions: Stronger School Communities Discussion Paper

The Government is seeking views of principals, teachers, support staff, parents, students and school communities on the right balance between flexibility and support for local decision making in every Queensland state school. Feedback by March 2012.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/localdecisions/pdf/school-communities-survey-print.pdf>

OPPOSITION/LNP

e-Learning for Special Needs Schools

Twenty iPads or comparable technology for every State Special School. Each State school or non-Government school with a special education program to receive 10 tablets.

<http://lnp.org.au/policies/revitalise-frontline-services/elearning-for-special-needs-students>

A Safer Queensland: School Safety Zones

\$10m over four years to improve speed limit sign visibility in school zones. 75 Flashing speed limit signs.

<http://lnp.org.au/policies/better-infrastructure-and-better-planning/a-safer-queensland-school-safety-zones>



29 November 2011: LNP Leader announced *Independent Public Schools* policy.

<http://lnp.org.au/policies/revitalise-frontline-services/independent-public-schools>

An LNP Government will allow around 120 State schools to opt to become Independent Public Schools over the next four years, with 30 State schools transitioning each year.

The Independent Public Schools initiative says it will give Queensland Principals, schools and local communities greater control and ownership of their school as well as greater autonomy in decision making, such as hiring teachers and managing their school budget. Participating schools will receive up to \$50,000 as a transitional grant to assist in the change. In addition, Independent Public Schools will be eligible to receive up to a further \$50,000 in funding each year for administrative purposes.

LEADERS DEBATE

25 November 2011: The Premier Anna Bligh and the LNP Leader Campbell Newman took part in an 80 minute debate that was streamed live on The Courier-Mail's website. A panel of three Courier-Mail journalists and members of the audience asked questions. Online questions and comments were also available via Twitter.

LNP Leader Campbell Newman won a coin toss to speak first. He spoke of the LNP's four pillar economy based on agriculture, tourism, construction and resources to "get all of Queensland back on track and to deliver the services Queenslanders deserve and expect now and into the future." In particular he highlighted frontline services, including teachers, to get the basics right.

Premier Anna Bligh said education was a priority for the ALP and she made reference to the Mines to Minds proposal for a Queensland Education Trust she announced two days earlier. In answer to the only question on education asked during the debate, the Premier confirmed that the ALP would stick with Years 11 and 12 maths and science continual assessment instead of switching to one big exam at the end of school.

GREENS

Greens education policy is online at <http://qld.greens.org.au/policies/education/education> and says "private schools have a role to play". Goal 12 states "Funding to public and private education to provide equitable and fair access to education for all with the goal of prioritising public education."

KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY

Galaxy polling conducted by The Courier-Mail recently indicated up to 23 per cent of Queensland voters were considering voting for Mr Katter's party. Member for Beaudesert Aidan McLindon is the party leader in Queensland. While no education specific policy has been released by the party to date its values and principals listed on its website refer to opportunities for children. Please note point 4 (g).

<http://www.ausparty.org.au/who-we-are/values-and-principles.html>

FAMILY FIRST

Family First's Schooling Policy is on its website at <http://www.qld-familyfirst.org.au/schooling/> It supports "choice in education" and "equitable distribution of funding to both public and private schools."

Independent Schools Queensland Website: Policies are being uploaded to ISQ's State Election page as they are released. Other State Election information and materials are available at www.aisq.qld.edu.au

Authorised by David Robertson, Executive Director, Independent Schools Queensland, Spring Hill 4000.