

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS — CAPACITY TO HIRE AND FIRE TEACHING STAFF

49. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

The Liberal Party plan for the first 100 days of government included a promise to introduce new arrangements that will give school principals the authority to run their schools without bureaucratic interference if particular school communities choose to do so. In line with this commitment —

- (1) Will the minister inform the house whether principals and school communities will have the capacity to hire and fire teaching staff?
- (2) Does the government have any intention of introducing performance-based pay for teachers now or in the future?
- (3) Given the significant number of non-metropolitan district high schools and remote community schools with secondary tops, does the minister support changes to the funding formula to facilitate the retention of some year 11 and 12 students in their local communities?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I provide the following response on behalf of the Minister for Education —

- (1) It is the government's intention to introduce new arrangements giving school principals greater authority to run their schools without bureaucratic interference if the particular school community chooses and has the capacity to do so. The Minister for Education has commenced discussions with the department and has asked it to develop an implementation plan for the government to consider.
- (2) Since 1998, the department has recognised and financially rewarded classroom teachers who have attained a standard of excellence as defined by a set of professional standards. The government is satisfied with the current level 3 teacher arrangements.
- (3) With the introduction of the raised school leaving age, some senior students have remained at their district high schools and remote community schools. Schools will be examined on a case-by-case basis.