

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000452

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing.

Funding for Independent Public Schools

Question

What has the \$70 million fund for Independent Public Schools achieved?

- Is the funding continuing or has it finished?
- How many of the schools funded under this initiative are still operating as Independent Public Schools?
- How many have reverted to previous models of governance and accountability?

Answer

The Independent Public Schools (IPS) Initiative was established with five key objectives:

- a focus on local governance
- increased accountability to the local community
- the use of streamlined or one-line budgets
- local management of school facilities
- increased delegation over staffing for school principals.

Throughout the implementation of this initiative, the Australian Government has not required schools to be branded 'Independent Public Schools'. The aim of the initiative has been for schools to engage in activities that move them further along the path to greater school autonomy.

The Government's five objectives for the initiative have been met with all states and territories implementing activities addressing one or more of these five objectives.

Funding for the initiative is continuing until the Project Agreements cease on 30 June 2017. At the conclusion of the initiative, approximately 5000 government schools will have benefited from activities funded under the initiative.