

Wood, Daniel (Sen B. Mason)

From: Chrenkoff, Arthur (Sen B. Mason)
Sent: Thursday, 24 February 2011 1:49 PM
To: Wood, Daniel (Sen B. Mason)
Subject: Can you print out a few copies of this email and take it down to Brett?
Attachments: image001.jpg

Importance: High

**Education, Employment & Workplace Relations
Legislation Committee**

Additional Budget Estimates 2011/2011

Tabled Doc No. 4

Date: 24.02.2011


By: Senator Mason.

From: ROFF Chris [mailto:croff4@eq.edu.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 November 2010 10:48 AM
To: Christensen, George (MP)
Subject: Correspondence Background Note for Ministerial Taylor.doc

Hi George

More detail, as promised

Cheers
Chris

 Queensland Government	CORRESPONDENCE BACKGROUND NOTE		
Date:	2 nd November 2010	Contact Phone No.:	49450111
Author:	Chris Roff	Position:	Principal
School:	Proserpine State High School		

SUBJECT:

BACKGROUND

Include any background information necessary to issues raised by the correspondent.

- In 2011, Proserpine SHS are offering the opportunity to parents of students in years 9 and 10 to join the "1:1 eLearning" program – this will involve the issue of a good quality/capable laptop computer to the student for use at school and at home 24/7/365.
- Funding received by the school for the NSSCF project was based on bringing the ratio of students:computers to 2:1. The number of existing desk top computers at the school under three years old in 2008 was subtracted from the count and not funded. Just over half of our cash allocation has been used since then to maintain the ratio and replace dying machines.
- This has allowed us to apply approximately \$75,000 to the "1:1 eLearning program" for year 9 and 10 students in 2011 – and years 11 and 12 will benefit by better access to the other school computers, hence being true to the ideal of the NSSCF benefiting years 9-12.
- The program we are offering goes way beyond the minimum requirement of the federal government, offering insurance coverage to enable students to take the devices home, covering accidental damage and theft. There is also a "Compu-Trace" program installed in each device to enable tracking if lost or stolen.
- The program also has calculated costs to enable ongoing maintenance and repair of the machines – and for students in year 9, to cover additional warranty costs.
- The program also includes a considerable software package, including Adobe Suite CS5, Windows 7, Office 2010, many other software programs all itemised within the comprehensive booklets produced

by the school for parents – Ms Malcolm (Taylor?) should have one of these, as she attended the second of the three parent information evenings (run by school staff on 19th, 20th and 21st October).

- The cost of the device with selected updates, including webcam, extra RAM, warranty, etc is around \$1300 – the software, retail, would be over \$3000 each machine.
- The school will not make money from this program – rather, we are taking calculated cash flow risks to enable a new way of learning for Ms Malcolm’s child, and others in the program – please refer to the booklet, or eLearning branch, for material outlining the educational arguments for eLearning in the 21st Century – these were comprehensively covered at the parent information evenings, and there is a DVD recording of one of these also available.
- The absolute basic computer options are not available on Purchase IT, especially Netbooks - nor would they serve over an expected four year life of the device – the device has been carefully chosen for durability, reliability, longevity, etc.
- A copy of material for parents (Information package) is available to download or view via the school website www.proserpnshs.eq.edu.au under “One to One eLearning on the first page to the left.

ISSUES

Explain actions taken by the school, why the response has been handled in a particular way, comment upon any request for a meeting and provide details of any options available to the correspondent.

- Ms Malcolm and her partner spoke to me at length after the parent evening, where I attempted to address their concerns – this is where I may have drawn the analogy between a tradesman’s tools and the laptop. We also discussed in general terms the opportunities for taxation relief on such educational costs, and I encouraged them to seek some advice around this. I also attempted to explain that NSW approached this opportunity in a different way to Queensland.
- I also met with Ms Malcolm and her partner on Friday 29th October, when they attended school as part of the re entry procedure for their son Kane, who had been suspended from attendance for three days previously that week.
- I discussed with them payment options to allow Kane to be part of this program in 2011 – Ms Malcolm was keen for him to be a part of the program. We agreed on fortnightly repayments throughout 2011, and Ms Malcolm joined the program at that time – she seemed at ease with what we had agreed, and I shook hands with her partner, who also seemed to better understand the reasons for the costs and be willing to undertake the repayment plan we had agreed.
- The “1:1 eLearning Program” for year 9 and 10 students in 2011 is optional – staff are now discussing how best to structure lessons to maximise learning opportunities for all students – those in the program, and those not in the program
- Overall community response to the program has been very positive, with 230 students so far taking up the offer. This represents approximately 70% of the expected student enrolment in these grades in 2011.
- We are now exploring opportunities for local Rotary, Lions and other service clubs to support school awarded bursaries to families with financial difficulties – this is already in place with our school Student Resource Scheme. The P&C have also indicated that they may be able to assist in this regard.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Delete which is not applicable.

- I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief **are suitable/are not suitable** for publication.

If you think the contents or attachments contained in this brief are suitable for publication, please ensure you:

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- *follow departmental processes for publication to the web.*

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- someone's personal information (e.g. a student)
- a legal matter (e.g. a contract between DET and a third party)
- a third party's business information (e.g. sensitive pricing information not available in the market)
- a matter before, or potentially being submitted to Cabinet, Parliament or Executive Council
- employee grievance or disciplinary matters
- preliminary opinions or positions regarding an aspect of the department's business (e.g. an options paper discussing new policy/strategy/approach etc yet to be approved by DG/minister).

Published information should also be 'accurate', with all efforts made to ensure that information published is supported by information the department holds (e.g. raw data)

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The Government's new approach to access to information includes that government information will be released administratively as a matter of course, unless there is a good reason not to, with applications under the RTI Act being necessary only as a last resort. DET has developed an Administrative Access Scheme to assist this process.

Director:	Date:
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