

COLLIE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — INDEPENDENT SCHOOL APPLICATION

112. Hon COL HOLT to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) As the minister would be aware, Collie has been selected as a SuperTown under the regional centre development plan. Complementing this initiative, Collie Senior High School has applied to be an independent school for the last two years and on both occasions has not been selected.
- (2) Could the minister please give the specific reasons why the Collie Senior High School has not been selected and how the school has failed to demonstrate meeting the criteria for independent school status?
- (3) Finally, what does the Collie Senior High School community need to do to qualify as an independent school?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) The independent selection panel makes recommendations to the Director General of the Department of Education regarding the readiness of schools for independent public school status based on the school's application with respect to the following three criteria: capacity of the school to assume greater responsibility for its own affairs; level of local support, including staff support; and potential benefits to students and the broader school community. All schools need to meet these requirements to the satisfaction of the independent selection panel before they are recommended for selection. I am not advised of the reasons for inclusion into or exclusion from the program. Schools are recommended by an independent selection panel to the director general based on the application demonstrating the three criteria. This process is independent of ministerial direction.

The panel has high expectations of each school and their readiness for IPS status. The principal of Collie Senior High School has on three separate occasions been provided feedback from the independent selection panel on the school's expression of interest to become an independent public school. Principals share the feedback provided by the independent selection panel with their school community.