

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS — 2019 INTAKE

Statement by Minister for Education and Training

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training) [10.04 am]: I am pleased to inform the house that a further 42 schools from across the state have been selected to become independent public schools in 2019.

Several members interjected.

Hon SUE ELLERY: See, you said I would not do it.

Forty-two successful schools will join the initiative next year, taking the total number of independent public schools to 573. As part of the initiative, schools and their communities are empowered to make local decisions that improve education outcomes for their students. Principals will have more flexibility on important matters such as staff recruitment, financial management, governance and accountability. Increased autonomy enables greater efficiency at the local level, while support from the public education system remains available for schools as they need it, including training and development opportunities, infrastructure, information and communications technology resources, and specialist services. School boards are an important part of each independent public school, helping principals develop the strategic direction of their schools and monitoring their progress toward agreed targets. This is the seventh intake of independent public schools since the initiative was first announced in 2009. This government is committed to the benefits of greater autonomy being shared more widely and more equitably in public schools across the state to achieve improvements for students. I welcome the new school communities to the independent public schools initiative for next year.