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Additional Schools Invited To Become Independent Public Schools.

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton has welcomed the Liberal-led State Government's announcement that local public school communities will have greater say in how their local school is run, following the announcement today of a third intake of Independent Public Schools.

Dr Nahan said 98 public schools have already moved towards greater autonomy and flexibility since the Liberal-led State Government initiative began in 2009.

"Rossmoyne Senior High School and Willetton Senior High School both already have Independent Public School status," said Dr Nahan.

"The strong interest in the initiative has been driven by a grass-roots desire to see local schools in Riverton cater for the specific needs of our community."

"Becoming an Independent Public School gives school communities more control over their affairs, including the authority to select and appoint all staff and to manage their own budgets."

"I strongly encourage any local schools with an interest in becoming an Independent Public School to submit an application – I would be more than happy to offer my support and assistance because IPS status provides schools with greater decision-making authority at a local level and it reduces unnecessary bureaucracy."

Dr Nahan said Independent Public School students often benefit from clusters of schools sharing resources in a variety of ways, increasing access to teachers with specific skills and knowledge.

"Applications for the third intake close mid-May, ensuring that principals have time to undertake important staff and community consultation," said Dr Nahan.

"Schools will be notified of the outcome of their expressions of interest in July, allowing time for schools to undertake the necessary planning, training and transition requirements during the remainder of the year. Successful schools will start as Independent Public Schools at the beginning of 2012."

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