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## **Strong Support for Independent Public Schools**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said the move by the State Government to empower schools through the creation of Independent Public Schools has received strong support with 102 school communities across Western Australia putting their hands up to be considered for independence.

"Most schools understand the benefits of this initiative and the flexibility that it will bring. I am very pleased that that so many schools and their communities have responded so quickly and decisively to the opportunity for positive change," said Dr Nahan.

"Some schools will be disappointed as only 30 schools will be in the first round for 2010 to be chosen to become Independent Public Schools. However, the Government is committed to increasing the number of schools eligible for the programme with further rounds of selection next year and in subsequent years."

"The programme meets the key Liberal election commitment to allow greater autonomy to public schools and is expected shape public education in WA for decades to come."

Dr Nahan wrote to all schools in the Riverton electorate to encourage them to apply in the first round to become Independent Public Schools.

"The idea of empowering schools to respond more closely to the educational requirements of the community they serve is something that I have supported for a long time," said Dr Nahan.

"I was very pleased to see that Rossmoyne Senior High School has applied and that Willetton Senior High School plans to apply in the next round when its principal returns to the school."

"The program is about providing greater autonomy to school communities and enhancing the learning opportunities for students."

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