

Education (General Provisions) (Woorabinda) Amendment Regulation 2018

Explanatory notes for SL 2018 No. 34

made under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*

General Outline

Short title

Education (General Provisions) (Woorabinda) Amendment Regulation 2018

Authorising law

Sections 419A and 434 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

Following the 2007 introduction of the Preparatory Year (Prep) in Queensland schools, there was recognition of the need to improve early childhood education in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Through the 2006 Bound for Success strategy, a statewide pre-preparatory learning program (i.e. a kindergarten program) was established in 35 discrete Indigenous communities. In 2017, the pre-preparatory learning program was conducted in 12 state schools across 30 different locations, one non-state school, and community kindergartens or long day care centres in four local council areas (Hope Vale, Napranum, Woorabinda and Wujal Wujal). The 15 hour per week program targets children who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander aged 3½ to 4½ years.

In 2009, sections 419A to 419D were inserted into the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (the Act) to provide a legislative basis for the provision of a pre-preparatory learning program in state and non-state schools. The provisions recognise those state and non-state schools that were providing the pre-preparatory program in 2007 and provide a mechanism to expand the program in the future if required by prescribing additional schools in the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017*.

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council (Council), through the Undoonoo Day Care Centre (Undoonoo), operates the pre-preparatory program in Woorabinda.

The Council has identified a number of issues and challenges for the program, including the ability to attract and retain appropriately qualified staff and resources to ensure the quality of the pre-preparatory learning program, which may impact on the ongoing viability of the program.

To ensure that a pre-preparatory learning program continues to be delivered in the Woorabinda community, it is proposed to transition the delivery of the pre-preparatory learning program from Undoonoo to Woorabinda State School.

Providing the pre-preparatory learning program at Woorabinda State School is consistent with the policy intent of the original Bound for Success strategy, where the majority of state schools in discrete Indigenous communities provide the program.

It is necessary to prescribe the Woorabinda State School in order for the school to provide the pre-preparatory program from the beginning of Term 3, 2018.

Achievement of policy objectives

The *Education (General Provisions) (Woorabinda) Amendment Regulation 2018* (the Regulation) achieves its policy objectives by prescribing Woorabinda State School as a prescribed state school for the delivery of a pre-preparatory learning program.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of the Act.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of any other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

An allocation has been made of up to \$2 million (GST exclusive) one-off capital expenditure to facilitate construction of a new purpose built pre-preparatory facility and up to \$0.2 million (GST exclusive) of recurrent funding to support delivery of the pre-preparatory program. The \$0.2 million will form part of the Department of Education's school based salaries budget. The costs will be met within the existing departmental budget allocation.

Prescribing Woorabinda State School as a prescribed state school for the delivery of a pre-preparatory learning program ensures that a viable pre-preparatory learning program continues to be delivered in the Woorabinda community.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Consultation has occurred with the Woorabinda State School Principal and school staff, the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council and Chief Executive Officer, Undoonoo Day Care Centre, and parents and members of the Woorabinda community.

There is general support for the transfer of the pre-preparatory learning program from Undoonoo to Woorabinda State School.