



The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

Reference: MC23-002952

The Hon Luke Howarth MP
Member for Petrie
PO Box 321
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By email: Luke.Howarth.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Howarth

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 June 2023 regarding St Paul's School, Bald Hills, Queensland, and their new pedagogical approach to teaching and learning called "Realms of Thinking".

The Australian Government provides significant financial assistance to all approved authorities for the schools they represent under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) for the purposes of providing school education.

For non-government schools, an approved authority is the body corporate approved under the Act to receive financial assistance for one or more schools they represent. I am advised that the Anglican Schools Commission Queensland is the approved authority representing St Paul's School, Bald Hills, Queensland.

The amount of Government funding provided to approved authorities for school education is significant and its provision comes with responsibilities. All approved authorities in receipt of Government funding for schools must meet the requirements of the Act and the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (the Regulation). This includes the not-for-profit requirements under section 75 of the Act and section 26 of the Regulation.

The Department of Education is responsible for administering the Act and Regulation and has processes for monitoring the compliance of approved authorities with the legislative requirements and, if necessary, taking appropriate action in instances of non-compliance.

I understand the Anglican Schools Commission and Mr Paul Browning, Headmaster of St Paul's School, have each sought advice from the department on the proposed commercialisation of the "Realms of Thinking" model. In response, the department has provided advice that the proposed commercial arrangement presented would not meet the requirement of not-operating-for-profit under the Regulation, and it also raised concerns regarding the fit and proper persons requirement of the Regulation.

The department has offered to discuss the matter further with Mr Browning together with an authorised representative of the Anglican Schools Commission as the approved authority representing St Paul's School.

I strongly encourage Mr Browning to work with St Paul School's approved authority, the Anglican Schools Commission, and if necessary, the approved authority can arrange for both parties to discuss the matter further with ^{s 22} School Assurance Branch in the department to better understand the requirements of the Regulation and what is needed to ensure both parties are compliant with the Act and the Regulation.

^{s 22} can be contacted on ^{s 22} or via email at ^{s 22} [@education.gov.au](mailto: @education.gov.au).

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

JASON CLARE

/ / 2023