

Minister for Education

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Cranbrook School

The media reporting around the Cranbrook School is serious.

Minister Clare has said that the Department of Education has written to the school's board to ask a series of questions to determine whether they meet the requirements of the Education Act, whether they are indeed a fit and proper person as defined under the act, or whether there's evidence of a pattern of immoral or unethical behaviour.

This investigation is underway. The Government will not pre-empt the outcome of the investigation.

From: s 22
To: s 22
s 22 ; s 47E(d) ; s 47E(d) ; s 22
Cc: [Education - Media](#); s 22 ; s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: Urgent info required - s 22 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 12:22:00 PM

Hi s 22 , input for the request is provided below.

s 22

Cranbrook

- What have we done, what are they investigating, what could the outcome be. Ie. Potential action. [One or two dot points]

Key points

- The department takes all allegations of misconduct seriously which are reviewed against the basic requirements for approval under the Australian Education Act 2013 (the Act). This includes not-operating for profit, being financially viable, and fit and proper persons. Where non-compliance is identified the department takes action commensurate to the severity of the non-compliance.
- The reported allegations in relation to Cranbrook School are serious, and the department is reviewing the allegations to ensure the governing body of the Cranbrook School meets the fit and proper person requirements of the Act.
 - The Department has spoken to the NSW regulator, NSW Education Standards Authority about the matter.
 - The department has written to Cranbrook School regarding fit and proper requirements that are required to be met by approved authorities for schools under the Act. This follows allegations of toxic culture and bullying at Cranbrook School.
 - Previously, the department wrote to the school in 2022 and 2023 regarding overseas travel expenses.
- The Department is also writing to the Association of Independent Schools NSW seeking information relating to the services provided by AIS to its members (such as Cranbrook) and the investigations undertaken by AIS NSW relevant to this matter.

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Regards
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School Assurance Branch
s 22
www.education.gov.au

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From: s 22
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 9:18 AM
To: s 22

s 47E(d)

s 22
s 47E(d)
; s 22

Cc: Education - Media <media@education.gov.au>; s 22
; s 47E(d)

Subject: Urgent info required - s 22

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

Dear colleagues

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I've tried to highlight below the items requiring Departmental/policy area information. I've also provided some suggested content or responses [highlighted in yellow below] based on cleared information that we've previously provided to the Clare MO via media responses or other recently cleared media materials.

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Hope this helps and clarifies what is required by 1pm today. And again, apologies for the tight deadline.

Regards, s 22

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Cranbrook

- What have we done, what are they investigating, what could the outcome be. Ie. Potential action. [One or two dot points]

From media cleared response 8 March 2024:

- The department takes all allegations of misconduct seriously which are reviewed against the basic requirements for approval under the Australian Education Act 2013 (the Act). This includes not-operating for profit, being financially viable, and fit and proper persons. Where non-compliance is identified the department takes action commensurate to the severity of the non-compliance.
- The reported allegations in relation to Cranbrook School are serious, and the department is reviewing the allegations to ensure the governing body of the Cranbrook School meets the fit and proper person requirements of the Act. It would not be appropriate for the department to comment further while the review is underway.

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From: Education - Media <media@education.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 8:14 PM

To: s 22

s 22

s 47E(d)

s 22

s 47E(d)

; s 22

Cc: Education - Media <media@education.gov.au>; s 22

s 22

Subject: Urgent info required -s 22



Australian Government
Department of Education

To Minister for Education
Subject s 22

Meeting Details

Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024
s 22

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Attachment C Background - Equity, Wellbeing & Workforce

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Clearance

Primary Contact Officer: s 22

s 22

Branch School Funding Branch

| Schools | Funding and Data Collection

Clearance Officer: s 22

| Schools | Schools | Funding and Data Collection

Comments (for MO use only)

Pages 20 to 24 deleted under s 22

Background and additional information

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7. On 4 March 2024, ABC's Four Corners program featured a story on independent Sydney boy's school, Cranbrook. The story centred around the alleged 'toxic culture' of the school, including reports of students and school staff disrespecting female teachers and historical child sexual abuse, and the leadership team's response to these and similar issues at other schools.

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