



Sharon Bird MP  
Federal Member for Cunningham

## NEWS RELEASE

### **School uproar over guideline funding short-change**

A quiet change to the 2007 guidelines for the *Investing In Our Schools Programme* has many local public schools in uproar, Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, said today.

Ms Bird she had been contacted by a number of local schools in her electorate concerned that these schools had been short-changed because of the guideline change for the 2007 funding round.

“The 2007 guidelines indicate that local schools that have already been approved grants totalling \$100,000 will be ineligible to apply for further grants under this final round of the programme.

“However, 2005 guidelines gave local school principals and parents and friends associations to believe that the funding limit for any one school would be \$150,000 over 2005-2008.

“I have received many telephone calls, emails and letters from local schools concerned that they had followed the Government’s guidelines, but would now have projects planned unable to be funded.

“One local school was told last year by the Department of Education, Science and Training that the balance of funding available to the school was \$32,797.04.

“Under the 2007 guidelines however this school is now ineligible to apply for that funding because it has reached a total grant allocation of over \$100,000”, Ms Bird said.

She said that the 2007 final funding round of the *Investing In Our Schools Programme* would focus on schools that have not been successful in the 2005 and 2006 funding rounds.

“But changing the programme guidelines at the last minute without any warning has left a number of schools with projects now unable to be funded.

“These local schools rightly feel short-changed by the Howard Government’s quiet alteration of the 2007 funding guidelines”, she said.

Ms Bird has formally raised the concerns of local school communities with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Science and Training asking him to clarify the guidelines as a matter of urgency.

“Applications for the final round of *Investing In Our Schools* opens on March 21.

“A lot of effort goes into the application process by local school principals and P&C’s”, she said.

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