

Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2025

Human Rights Certificate

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*

In accordance with section 41 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act), I, John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and the Arts, provide this human rights certificate with respect to the *Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2025* (Amendment Regulation) made under sections 419A and 434 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (EGP Act).

In my opinion, the Amendment Regulation is compatible with the human rights protected by the HR Act. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of the Subordinate Legislation

To ensure access to a quality kindergarten program in the year before full-time school, the Queensland Government offers state delivered kindergarten (SDK) programs where there is market failure, unique challenges experienced by families in accessing kindergarten or non-viability in geographically isolated communities. Challenges include limited market viability, large distances, low and variable populations, geographic isolation, difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified staff and increasing cost of living.

The prescription of state schools that provide kindergarten programs in the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017* (EGP Regulation) is necessary because state schools are defined in Schedule 4 Dictionary of the EGP Act to mean an educational institution established under section 13 of the EGP Act. Section 13 of the EGP Act provides the Minister may establish schools at which the state provides primary, secondary or special education, but makes no reference to kindergarten programs.

To allow for SDKs, section 419A of the EGP Act enables the Minister to approve a program focused on literacy and numeracy for preparing a child for education in the preparatory year to be a kindergarten learning program for a prescribed state school. A state school must be prescribed under the EGP Regulation for the school to deliver a kindergarten learning program.

Section 74 of the EGP Regulation provides the state schools mentioned in Schedule 4 of the EGP Regulation, are the state schools prescribed for section 419A(5) of the EGP Act.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that children in rural and remote areas, or areas where there are barriers accessing a kindergarten program, are not disadvantaged compared to children in areas where there is greater access. The Queensland Government policy is to prescribe state schools at least 40km from the nearest approved kindergarten program provider (KPP) as a prescribed school for the purposes of providing an SDK.

Each year, the Department of Education's Early Childhood division receives updated data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), mapping state schools to their closest approved kindergarten program provider. Based on the latest data provided, Mutarnee State School (SS) and Irvinebank SS have been identified as meeting the distance criterion for inclusion in the SDK program.

The Amendment Regulation is made under and pursuant to sections 419A and 434 of the EGP Act, to prescribe Mutarnee SS and Irvinebank SS to deliver a kindergarten program. With the prescription of these schools, there will be 112 prescribed state schools under Schedule 4 of the EGP Regulation.

Human Rights Issues

Human rights relevant to the subordinate legislation (Part 2, Division 2 and 3 *Human Rights Act 2019*)

The Amendment Regulation engages the *right to recognition and equality under the law*, section 15 of the HR Act.

Section 15 – right to recognition and equality under the law

The right to recognition and equality under the law is a stand-alone right that also permeates all human rights. It encompasses both the right to recognition as a person before the law and the right to enjoy human rights without discrimination.

The right to recognition as a person before the law refers to the universal recognition of legal personality of the human being. The right to equality reflects the essence of human rights, that every person holds the same human rights by virtue of being human and not because of some particular characteristics or membership of a particular social group.

The Amendment Regulation supports, promotes and strengthens the right to equality by ensuring the community has access to a kindergarten learning program that would otherwise not be readily accessible. On this basis, the Amendment Regulation enhances human rights under the HR Act and is compatible with the *right to recognition and equality under the law*.

Consideration of reasonable limitations on human rights (section 13 *Human Rights Act 2019*)

The Amendment Regulation does not limit, restrict or interfere with the human rights protected under the HR Act.

Conclusion

I consider that the *Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2025* is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit human rights.

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

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