Parents, Caregivers and students

I hope you all enjoyed the mid year break and are ready for what I’m sure will be another exciting and busy term.

I am writing in regard to increased school autonomy and Independent Public Schools (IPS). Many of you would recall that I have provided regular updates on these issues over the past 12 months. In 2015 Territory schools were given the opportunity to become an Independent Public School. Taminmin College Council did not apply for this opportunity in 2015, as members wanted to ensure the proper amount of due diligence was performed. This has included a significant number of discussions with the department; engagement and communication with our school community which included a Q&A session with the Chief Executive; discussions with IPS schools; and a lot of research and discussion at College Council meetings. The outcome of this was that Taminmin College submitted an application to become an IPS in 2016 and the Principal and myself attended a Preparation Program Workshop in May 2015. Next week we will be participating in the selection process.

Becoming an IPS is really about changing mindsets and increasing innovation and creativity to improve student outcomes. The increased autonomy will allow Taminmin College to expand and strengthen our programs, projects, staffing and community partnerships. There will be flexibility to shape curriculum offerings to suit our student and community context; we will have more involvement and control over staff recruitment and selection processes; there will be a flattened management reporting structure which will provide greater freedom in making local decisions about how our school operates and there is access to additional funding to support IPS initiatives.

To be successful in the selection process, schools need to be able to demonstrate that they have the capacity to operate with increased autonomy. Over recent years Taminmin College has demonstrated the ability to be a driver in implementing wide ranging reforms to deliver excellence in public education. The pursuit to become an IPS is the next step which will further support our vision to be a leader in delivering even higher quality public education in our regional hub.

If you have any further questions, please contact me theratahis@bigpond.com

Beverley Ratahi
Chairman