

Republic of Nauru – 20th Parliament

Education Regulations 2012

TABLING STATEMENT

Hon Roland Kun MP
Minister for Education

12 July 2012

Mr Deputy Speaker,

I am pleased to table in this House today the *Education Regulations 2012*. These Regulations were made by Cabinet on 22 June 2012 in exercise of its power under section 114 of the *Education Act 2011*. The Regulations were published in the Gazette on 25 June 2012 in Gazette Notice No. 342, and commenced on the same day.

The Regulations relate to the setting of fees for the registration of non-government schools. Section 79 of the *Education Act 2011* requires non-government schools to be registered. An application for registration of a non-government school is made to the Minister, and must be:

- (a) made in the approved form
- (b) accompanied by the prescribed fee; and
- (c) lodged at least 6 months before the start of the school year in which the person proposes to begin operating the school.

These regulations are for the purpose of setting the prescribed fee. The fees apply from the second half of this school year.

The fees prescribed in the Regulations have been calculated on the basis of cost recovery so that the fees do not constitute a tax.

The Department of Education is responsible for the management, implementation and monitoring of the registration requirements to ensure that non-government schools comply with the requirements of the *Education Act 2011*. In ensuring that non-government schools meet the registration requirements the department is required to undertake the following:

- regular checks of schools and teachers to ensure adherence to the approved curriculum and assessment requirements;
- development, administration and reporting on national benchmarking tools in literacy and numeracy;

- school reviews to ensure that non-government schools are complying with Minimum Service Standards; and
- teacher and principal performance assessments.

These activities require the input and time of senior departmental officers. It is necessary that the Department undertake a cost recovery for provision of these services to non-government schools.

The Department has developed an estimate for these administrative costs based on the full scope of activities required to meet registration (curriculum and assessment compliance checks, staff performance appraisals, administering and marking of compulsory benchmarking tests), anticipated number of staff hours required for each of the specific tasks and the level of the officer required to undertake the tasks.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am also tabling with the Regulations an Explanatory Memorandum which includes notes on the meaning and intent of each provision in the Regulations. The new Regulations, together with the Explanatory Memorandum, are available on RONLAW in the 'Subordinate Legislation in Force' database (see <http://ronlaw.gov.nr>).

Thank-you.