

Student dress relief

Schools and parents welcome uniform subsidy

THE STATE Government will spend up to \$600,000 on uniform allowances for students attending the new super schools.

A subsidy of up to \$200 has been offered to every student who was enrolled at a closing school and attending a new super school.

Parents have welcomed the support and say it has enhanced the transition to the new school.

John Hartley Birth to Year 7 School at Smithfield Plains

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opened in late November with 401 students. School council chairwoman Cathy Lee said families appreciated the support in making the change. "It being a low socio-economic area, I know a lot of families weren't in the

position to go out and buy a new uniform," Ms Lee said.

"The new uniforms give children a sense of identity and a sense of belonging. The school has a whole new name, new logo and new colours and everyone has embraced it really well."

Five of the six new schools were given the allowance. Adelaide West Special Education Centre was not because it moved rather than amalgamating with existing schools.

The subsidy was limited to the new super schools, four of which opened ready for Term 1. The remaining two, Mark Oliphant College at Munno Para West and Roma Mitchell Secondary College at Gepps Cross, will open later this year.

South Australian Association of State School Organisations, representing parents and governing councils, said it was a positive move.

"With the large student population, it is crucial staff

develop discipline and security from day one – a far more likely outcome with all students in a single uniform," association director David Knuckey said. "For many parents, particularly those with several children, having to buy multiple brand new uniforms can place a strain on the family budget."

More than 3000 students are currently enrolled across the five sites.

Mark Oliphant B-12 is the largest with 943 students in

years Reception to 12, followed by the Gepps Cross Secondary School with 808.

Opposition education spokesman David Pisoni said this subsidy should not come at the expense of other educational resources.

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It's a swell time to buy an island

BEN HYDE

THE Lower Lakes' Goose Island is on the market for the first time in 55 years.

Ultimate water views and abundant wildlife are features of the island again because of rising River Murray water levels.

About a year ago, at the height of the drought, the island off the banks of Clayton Bay was practically an extension of the mainland.

But upstream floods over the past year, coupled with the partial removal of the regulator, means access to the island is by boat only.

The return of water to the region coincides with the privately-owned island being placed on the market for the first time in 55 years.

Vendors Richard and Julie Abbott said the 30ha island was now thriving with abundant wildlife.

"My father bought it 55 years ago and we bought it off the family about 10 years ago," Mr Abbott said.

"The water levels were very low there for a while, but it's been amazing over the past year. The water is as deep as we've ever seen it and there is more to come."

Expressions of interest close on April 8. Mr Forde said an asking price had not been set.

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IDYLIC: Goose Island vendors Julie and Rick Abbott outside the island home they have owned for 10 years and, inset, aerial views of the island and the house.

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Image: Canopic Coffinette of Tutankhamun. Not the Funerary Mask. The exhibition is organised by the National Geographic Society, Arts and Exhibitions International and IMG, with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities

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