

Cape York Academy to get financial audit



Noel Pearson

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Queensland's Auditor-General will run the ruler over Noel Pearson's Cape York Academy's financials after "irregularities" were discovered during a review of the Aurukun school.

As revealed by *The Australian* last month, the CYA will retain control of the school, but in partnership with the state government.

Releasing a report into the Aurukun school, which has been closed and teachers evacuated after the principal was twice allegedly carjacked by children armed with machetes, Education Minister Kate Jones said no "misappropriation" of government funds had been identified.

However, a financial audit was required to investigate the organisation's "debt policy and procedure" to sure it meets state standards, she said.

The school will also be extended to Year 8 when children and teachers return for the start of Term 3 next week. Currently it only goes up to Year 6.

Also, the direct instruction teaching method would be supplemented by standard national curriculum, Ms Jones said.

Mr Pearson was critical of the government's report and said it was "bizarre" it ignored law and order issues in the community.

He said the report was a "hotchpotch" and said the reviewers never got to see direct instruction in action.

He said he "completely welcome" a review by the Auditor-General into the finances of the school, which he said were managed by the education department and not by his organisation.

"So I've got absolutely no qualms about them inquiring into that, because that's all inside their bailiwick," Mr Pearson said.

"As I say I don't know what they're referring to, and as I say, we will comprehensively respond to the review. The main message I have, at the end of the day, the idea that Education Queensland could step in and somehow do what they didn't do prior to 2009, which is offer a service at that school which is to teach kids to be literate and numerate, is a fairytale. And would be a retrograde step, but at the end of the day, it's up to the Aurukun community and the government to determine what happens in the future."