

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Legislative Assembly Offices
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petition lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 25 February 2003 by Ms Elizabeth Dallaston concerning the compulsory school attendance obligations on parents.

Please see my attached response to the petitioners.

I invite you to contact Mr John Ford, Principal Project Officer, Education and Training Reforms for the Future on telephone (07) 3247 3516, should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Minister for Education

Ref: 03/30249

Dear Petitioner

Thank you for your petition lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 25 February 2003 concerning the compulsory school attendance obligations on parents.

While the State Government believes that the primary obligation for ensuring that young Queenslanders attend school lies with parents, we recognise that the Government has a responsibility to provide appropriate options for the wide range of young people living here.

For that reason, the State Government is committed to providing greater opportunities for young people to participate in education and training. With the *Education and Training Reforms for the Future* announced last year, we have recognised that some young people have disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from learning, and leaving the education and training system without a solid foundation for future success. We have recognised that the education and training system must be more flexible and offer more options to young Queenslanders than those currently available.

Therefore, the reforms will make a range of options available to young people to further their opportunity to learn so as to maximise their ability to become active citizens in a learning society. This wider range of options is designed to ensure that the individual young person's needs are being met and that the parent and young person can choose a setting that suits the needs, wishes and desires of the young person.

The options will include school, TAFE, registered training providers, apprenticeships or traineeships, employment programs, training programs, virtual schooling and vocational education and training, international learning programs and university.

The *Education and Training Reforms for the Future* package is an integral part of the Beattie Government's *Smart State* agenda.

I invite you to contact Mr John Ford, Principal Project Officer, Education and Training Reforms for the Future on telephone (07) 3247 3516, should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Minister for Education

Ref: 03/30212