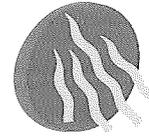




Hon Geoff Wilson MP
Member for Ferny Grove



**Queensland
Government**

9 OCT 2009

Minister for Education and Training

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 5 August 2009 regarding the Parliament of Queensland E-Petition Number 1190-09, protesting the closure of the vision impaired unit at the Annerley campus of the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE (MSIT).

In 2007, the Annerley campus was identified by the previous Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry for the development of the State Government's Transitional Research Institute. This is incorporated into a Government plan to expand the Princess Alexandra Hospital and links in with the University of Queensland's Pharmaceutical Australia Centre of Excellence.

In 2007, the Cabinet Budget Review Committee decided for the Woolloongabba site to be transferred to the Department of Health. The transfer of ownership of the site to Queensland Health has been completed.

As part of the arrangements put in place by the Government, Vision Australia has agreed to compensation from Queensland Treasury to the value of \$10m to vacate the site and construct and/or lease premises. Vision Australia is implementing arrangements to lease part of the Coorparoo State School site and will construct new premises at this location.

The initial proposal to relocate students from the Annerley campus to the MSIT campus of their choice was based on the strong support network and facilities already established for students with a visual impairment at Loganlea. However, following a meeting with students from the Annerley campus on 16 December 2008 to discuss their concerns regarding the proposed relocation of these services, the move was deferred until 9 April 2009, at the conclusion of Term 1, 2009.

The Institute worked with each student to develop individual learning plans and organise relocation to the most suitable training environment to ensure appropriate learning support can be provided.

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Appropriate transition plans, including mobility and orientation training with new locations for each student were undertaken. The majority of these students chose to attend the Yeronga campus of MSIT, which incorporated a purpose built learning facility with a range of adaptive technology suites for the vision impaired.

A further meeting with students was held on 13 February 2009 at the Annerley campus to finalise this matter and to ensure students were satisfied with the level of orientation training and support being provided in relation to their relocation. At this meeting, students expressed their satisfaction with the process.

All MSIT students who attended the Annerley campus have now completed their relocation to a TAFE campus of their choice.

Should you require any further information, I invite you to contact Mr Mark Tierney, Director, Strategic Asset Management Unit, Infrastructure Services, Department of Education and Training, by email at mark.tierney@deta.qld.gov.au on telephone (07) 3237 0224.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Education and Training

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Your ref: Petitions