



Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

23 DEC 2015

Level 22 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7530
Email education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the Petition Number 2497-15 tabled in the Parliament on 1 December 2015 concerning the proposed closure of the Kilcoy C&K Community Kindergarten.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring that all Queensland children participate in a quality kindergarten program in the year before Prep. This commitment is based on well-established research that demonstrates the benefits of a kindergarten program for later education and life outcomes.

I was disappointed to hear that C&K had announced it would close the Kilcoy kindergarten service at the end of the year. It appears the decision related to C&K's concern over viability due to low enrolments.

Since C&K made the announcement, the Department of Education and Training has been advised by C&K that the kindergarten will remain open in 2016 following consultations with the local community. I understand the future of the service depends on the kindergarten maintaining a sufficient level of enrolments.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to working with the early childhood education sector to provide access to viable affordable kindergarten programs. To this end, the Queensland Government invests significant funding to support the delivery of kindergarten programs.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms Gabrielle Sinclair, Deputy Director-General, Early Childhood Education and Care, on telephone 3034 5976 or by email at gabrielle.sinclair@dete.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

Ref: 15/486552