

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 419-04

Thank you for forwarding the petition received on 25 February 2005 concerning funding for Reading Recovery.

Reading Recovery is one of several programs of literacy intervention which are provided by schools to support students who experience difficulty in developing literacy skills in the early years. It is an Education Queensland initiative, with funding provided to state schools only.

Education Queensland has a responsibility to ensure the efficient and equitable distribution of educational resources. A recent review of Reading Recovery indicated an uneven allocation of the resource across the State. As a result, in 2005 the Department has commenced a two-stage redistribution of the program which necessitates the movement of Reading Recovery from some parts of the State to other areas. In addition, 30 Reading Recovery teachers will be redeployed back to classrooms to assist in achieving the Government's commitment to reduce class sizes in Years 4 to 10. These lower class sizes will help give all students, including those with literacy problems, a better education. These changes are supported by the Queensland Teachers' Union. Both the Department and the Union agree to the need to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of this valued yet finite resource.

Next year over 500 Reading Recovery teachers state-wide will support young learners who are experiencing difficulty in learning to read and write in the critical early years. This signals the Government's continued substantial commitment to Reading Recovery.

If you have any further questions pertaining to the implementation of the program, please feel free to contact Ms Jane Buchanan, State Coordinator on telephone (07) 3234 1661.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for the Arts

Ref: 05/21126