



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

20 MAY 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 3448-20 tabled on 20 April 2021 in the Legislative Assembly requesting a guarantee that every state school in Queensland has access to a well-maintained school library under the stewardship of a professional library team.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises that teacher-librarians play an important role in supporting the continued improvement in reading and literacy outcomes of Queensland state school students, which is imperative for student learning and success, as well as in sharing information and complementing the classroom work of teachers.

Queensland's state schools have dedicated libraries, which are crucial in helping create a school culture that supports and encourages reading engagement, student learning and a commitment to improved educational outcomes. The use of online digital resources made available to students during the COVID-19 health pandemic shone a light on how important these digital resources are for all students, and the importance of the role of state school teacher-librarians play in ensuring students remain information-literate.

The Department of Education allocates resources to schools each year based on student enrolment data collected on the eighth day of school each year. Principals, in consultation with their school community, determine the most effective use of their digital and print resources and the role that teacher-librarians play within their school.

In 2021, of the 1254 schools across the State, over 95% received some full-time equivalent (FTE) allocation for a teacher-librarian. Of the schools that did not receive teacher-librarian FTE allocation, eight did not meet the minimum enrolment threshold—seven of these eight schools had zero enrolments at the time. The remaining schools are not eligible for FTE allocation due to speciality staffing allocation models applied to these schools, for example special schools, detention centres and the hospital school.

I am pleased to advise that in the past five years the department has increased its allocation of librarians to Queensland state schools by 6%. I trust this information reassures the petitioners of the department's commitment to teacher-librarians in Queensland state schools.

I would like to thank your petitioners for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education
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