



Hon Kerry Shine MP
Member for Toowoomba North



**Queensland
Government**

In reply please quote: 505454/1 J/08/02078
Your reference: 1025-08

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| LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE | |
| No.: 5208T3422 | |
| 6 MAY 2008 | |
| MP: Hon K Shine | |
| Clerk's Signature | 6/5/08 |

**Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier
in Western Queensland**

02 MAY 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter dated 14 March 2008 forwarding a copy of petition number 1025-08.

This petition seeks the review and reform of Queensland's sentencing process in light of the sentences imposed on nine offenders who pleaded guilty to the rape of a 10 year old girl at Aurukun.

In my view the sentences given to these offenders did not reflect community standards and for this reason, I lodged appeals with the Court of Appeal.

I also lodged an application to have the normal period of time for an appeal extended. This application was granted by the Court of Appeal.

In addition, an independent review of sentences handed down for sexual offences in Cape York communities has been undertaken. The aim of the review was to consider the sentences imposed in light of comparative cases and to determine whether the sentences appear adequate and in the sentencing range for offences of this kind.

This review, conducted by Mr Peter Davis SC, has now been completed. However at the request of Mr Davis and Mr Walter Sofronoff QC, the Solicitor-General of Queensland, I do not intend to release the details of the report until a decision has been handed down in the aforementioned appeals. This is to ensure that the information in the report does not jeopardise the appeal process in any way.

Thank you for referring this petition to me.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kerry Shine MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland

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