



3 OCT 2008



**Queensland
Government**

The Honourable Rod Welford MP

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

**Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts**

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 28 August 2008 regarding Petition numbered 1101-08 expressing support for Mr John Lockhart regarding the appointment process for the executive principal position at Chancellor State College. The Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts, the Honourable Rod Welford MP, has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The Minister acknowledges and appreciates Mr Lockhart's leadership of Chancellor State College over the past five years and the tremendous support he has received from the students, teachers and parents.

Since its inception, Chancellor State College has grown from around 1000 students in Years 1 to 8 to a multi-campus P-12 college with an enrolment of 1914 students. When a school has 1600 enrolled students and maintains this enrolment over two annual enrolment census collections, an executive principal appointment is able to be made.

The process for the appointment of executive principals to schools and colleges is a merit based process undertaken in accordance with the principles outlined in the *Public Service Act 2008* and the Queensland Government's Industrial Directive *04/06 Recruitment and Selection*. Applicants are assessed on the basis of their skills, abilities, knowledge and experience relevant to carrying out the duties of the role. There is always the chance that other applicants will be able to demonstrate superior leadership, experience and suitability.

The Minister understands that although there is no legal requirement to consult with stakeholders as part of the selection process for a state school principal, the selection panel did seek feedback from the Chancellor State College Parents and Citizens' Association executive, on behalf of the parent community.

While the Minister would have liked the matter to have been handled differently, it is not possible to have the decision reversed now. I can advise however that the Minister will be reviewing the process for the appointment of executive principals in the future.

Should you have any further concerns please contact Mr Rob McAlpine, Regional Executive Director, Sunshine Coast by email at rob.mcalpine@deta.qld.gov.au or on telephone (07) 3881 9621.

The Minister thanks you for your continued support of Chancellor State College.

Yours sincerely

**Bonny Barry MP
Member for Aspley
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister**

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