




# Premier of Queensland

<b>LAI D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE</b>	
	No. <u>5309T 1543</u>
	- 9 DEC 2009
	MP: _____
Clerk's Signature: _____	

For reply please quote: ES/AT – TF/09/28266 – TF/09/136231

08 DEC 2009

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

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3224 4500  
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

I refer to your letters of 7 October 2009 to me and the Honourable Karen Struthers MP, Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women, concerning Petition No. 1262-09 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The petitioners can be assured that the Queensland Government respects and values the contribution seniors make to the social, cultural and economic life our State. As Premier, I have made it clear to all Ministers my expectation that they each take responsibility for any seniors' issues that arise within their portfolios. However, my Government also understands the importance of having a minister with principal responsibility for seniors and this is Minister Struthers.

The Department of Communities has a dedicated Office for Seniors that reports to Minister Struthers. This office is committed to ensuring that older people in Queensland are supported and it works in partnership with seniors' organisations, service providers and other Government agencies to ensure that the needs of seniors are responded to appropriately and effectively.

With this key Ministerial Portfolio responsibility, Minister Struthers also has an advisor in her office committed to identifying issues, developing responses and making recommendations on all matters relating to seniors in Queensland.

As a demonstration of this commitment, my Government is developing a whole-of-Government Seniors' Strategy and Action Plan. Supporting this, a discussion paper 'Positively Ageless: Developing a Queensland Seniors Strategy' was launched in September 2009.



**Queensland**  
Government

My Government has been seeking the views of seniors through consultation sessions across the state. The discussion paper is also available online at [www.seniors.qld.gov.au](http://www.seniors.qld.gov.au) and can be requested by calling 1800 051 978.

Priority areas for action over the next two years will have a particular emphasis on making positive changes for seniors who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or socially isolated.

A recent example of this approach is my Government's decision to act to give around 25 000 Queensland single pensioners in social housing certainty by making sure none of a recent pension increase is lost in increased rent.

My Government is also committed to supporting all seniors, for example, through transport concessions and rebates on power bills. For seniors and pensioners this saves them around \$150 million a year.

I can assure the petitioners that my Government remains committed to addressing the needs of Queensland's seniors in a meaningful way.

Yours sincerely



ANNA BLIGH MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND