



Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Transport

Our ref: MC53858

Your ref: Petitions

10 DEC 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1460-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Evan Moorhead MP, Member for Waterford on 25 November 2010, about protection of school bus drivers from violence and abuse.

Please be assured that the issue of safety for all bus drivers is one which the government takes very seriously. In order to address this very important issue, I initiated the formation of the Bus Safety Committee in late September 2010.

The committee first met on 5 October 2010 and is investigating a range of issues to reduce the number of assaults on bus drivers. One issue which is being considered is the effectiveness of the implementation of the Code of Conduct for School Students Travelling on Buses. This committee is comprised of union and industry representatives, as well as government agencies including the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Education and Training, and the Department of Transport and Main Roads and is due to submit their final report to me within the next month.

It should be noted that provisions currently exist within Queensland legislation that address violent and unacceptable behaviour. For example, a tested offence structure for dealing with assaults exists within the Queensland Criminal Code. Also, the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* contains provisions dealing with persons who create a disturbance or nuisance on a public passenger vehicle.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport

Capital Hill Building
85 George Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1111
Facsimile +61 7 3224 4242
Email transport@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158