



Hon Geoff Wilson MP
Member for Ferny Grove



**Queensland
Government**

24 NOV 2010

Minister for Education and Training

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 1558-10 lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 28 October 2010 expressing the need to increase and improve all student outcomes at the Western Cape College (WCC), and in particular the professional and para-professional staffing numbers to achieve Closing the Gap initiatives.

The WCC has access to a range of resources to deliver educational services. In addition to the school grants, the college received \$942,887 under the Closing the Gap programs in 2010.

Western Cape College has accessed 10.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Indigenous teacher numbers which the College can use flexibly to provide professional and para-professional services. These resources are additional to those provided through the staffing model.

The Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy receives funding from State and Federal Government departments. The Department of Education and Training (DET) has committed \$7.2 million over three years to operate programs in Aurukun and Coen. These resources are in addition to school grants, Closing the Gap funds and staffing resources provided on the basis of enrolment numbers. The Far North Queensland region of DET is currently exploring options to access the 'old hospital site' through normal intra-government processes.

A proposal has been developed for the staffing of the Western Cape Residential Campus which will provide additional professionals and para-professionals to meet the needs of students. A cooperative approach between Education Queensland and the operator of the residential campus would see the appointment of a Campus Principal and the allocation of six FTE teachers to conduct these programs. Education Queensland has allocated the positions of Campus Principal to the college in Semester 2, 2010 so that preparations can be made for these programs and partnerships can be developed with other service providers.

I commend the WCC Parent and Citizens Association's aspiration to engage all students, while achieving significant educational outcomes and reforms, and trust this commitment is sustained by the resources outlined above.

For any further information regarding this matter, please contact Mr Ian Mackie, Assistant Director-General, Division of Indigenous Education and Training Futures, Department of Education and Training, on telephone (07) 3237 0986.

Yours sincerely

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Education and Training

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