

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petition lodged on 3 April 2003 with the Queensland Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Paul Lucas MP, Minister for Innovation and Economy and Member for Lytton concerning the retention of Mrs Georgette Rowan and Mrs Elizabeth Grist as Administration Officers at Wynnum State High School.

I am advised that in early 2003, the school decided that two positions of Administration Officer should be filled permanently. The positions were one (1.0) full time and one (0.6) permanent part-time Administration Officer.

Education Queensland must comply with legislative provisions when filling vacancies. In the first instance when filling a vacancy, the Department must consider those officers who are deployees (a deployee is an employee of the Department who no longer has a substantive position either through restructure or loss of school entitlement due to decrease in enrolment). For each position, there was a suitable deployee who met the criteria for the vacancy and was subsequently appointed.

I understand that Mrs Rowan relieved in the (0.6) Administration Officer position for the period 28 January 2002 to 14 December 2002 and again this year from 20 January to 2 June. I acknowledge that Mrs Rowan's fortnightly roster will decrease from 43.50 hours (72.5hrs per fortnight x 0.6) to 29 hours (72.5hrs per fortnight x 0.4) when she returns to her substantive (0.4) position. However, I would like to clarify that Mrs Rowan will not lose her permanent hours of 0.4 full time equivalent (FTE) Administration Officer (Administrative Assistance Enhancement Program) and may have the opportunity in the future to increase her employment fraction. This will depend on future school enrolments.

Mrs Grist, a casual teacher aide, has relieved in the (1.0) temporary Administration Officer position for the following periods: 9 November 1999 to 1 March 2000; 20 March 2000 to 15 December 2000; 23 January 2001 to 12 April 2001; and from 24 April 2001 until 27 June 2003. These temporary engagements always had end dates and were reviewed at the end of each engagement.

I understand that Mrs Grist has since resigned from Education Queensland as at 11 June 2003, and has secured a permanent position elsewhere. This is unfortunate as she was to be converted to a permanent part-time teacher aide position. Mrs Rowan has taken leave until December 2003.

I believe the Department has followed the legislative provisions and all policies and procedures in filling these vacancies. We value the skills the employees who will take up these positions bring to the school and look forward to their continued involvement with Wynnum State High School, along with that of Mrs Rowan.

Please feel free to contact Mr Richard Pegg, Principal Personnel Officer, Bayside District Office on telephone (07) 3245 0205, should you require any further information in regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Minister for Education

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