



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 1853-12 tabled in the Legislative Assembly regarding the introduction of Confucius Classrooms in Queensland schools.

In Queensland, Confucius Classrooms are an activity of the Confucius Institute at the Queensland University of Technology (CIQ) — one of the many Confucius Institutes worldwide. State and non-state schools teaching Chinese (Mandarin) can elect to participate in the Confucius Classrooms initiative. CIQ manages all associated administration relevant to this initiative by directly liaising with Queensland schools.

In 2012, four Queensland state high schools and one independent school have commenced the Confucius Classroom activities.

The purpose of the Confucius Classrooms is to assist with the implementation of studies in Chinese (Mandarin) language and culture, and to contribute to Asian literacy as a cross-curriculum priority of the Australian Curriculum.

Schools participating in the Confucius Classrooms program teach the Queensland Studies Authority's language curriculum. They receive support from the Hanban (an arm of China's Ministry of Education) through the provision of materials, financial assistance and the possibility of having volunteer teachers from China in their classroom.

Queensland Studies Authority's language syllabuses do not contain any political content and the teaching of culture (as stipulated by these documents) focuses on social practice.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms Marg Pethiyagoda, Assistant Director-General within Education Queensland, on telephone 3237 1625 or by email at margaret.pethiyagoda@dete.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JP Langbroek".

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment