



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

13 MAR 2013

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 2014-12 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2013 regarding school funding reforms being put forward by the Australian Government.

On 3 September 2012, the Honourable Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister, outlined the National Plan for School Improvement as the Australian Government's response to the Gonski Review. Further detail was contained within The Australian Education Bill 2012 and its Explanatory Memorandum which were tabled in the Australian Parliament on 28 November 2012.

The Queensland Government is working with all states and territories, the Australian Government and non-government schooling sectors to ensure school funding reforms result in a fair distribution of government funds to all Queensland schools.

The assumptions and modelling behind the School Resourcing Standard and associated loadings are of particular importance to Queensland given its unique combination of challenges, including population growth exceeding the national average and the high number of schools in regional and remote areas.

There are substantial issues in relation to the policy and funding arrangements for these reforms that are still subject to negotiation in the lead up to the first Council of Australian Governments meeting of 2013. Once all relevant details have been provided by the Australian Government, Queensland will be in a position to assess the full cost implications of the Australian Government's proposals.

While this Government is committed to genuine reforms yielding positive benefits for our schools and students, reform at any cost is not an option. Securing funding arrangements that provide funding certainty for our schools, and do not increase the administrative burden on our schools or negatively affect the financial stability of our State, is paramount.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising their concerns with me.

Yours sincerely

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