



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

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14 JUN 2013

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 2114-13 and e-Petition 2035-12 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 May 2013 regarding advisory visiting teacher (AVT) services for students with hearing impairment in the non-state schooling sectors.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is committed to providing all Queensland students access to a quality education, and provides support to the non-state schooling sectors to deliver services for students with hearing impairment. All Queensland schools, state and non-state, are also required to adhere to the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

The three schooling sectors have worked together to develop a plan for 2013 to ensure that students with disability in the non-state sector are supported in the context of the decision to remove the state schooling AVT service for students with hearing impairment, physical impairment and/or vision impairment.

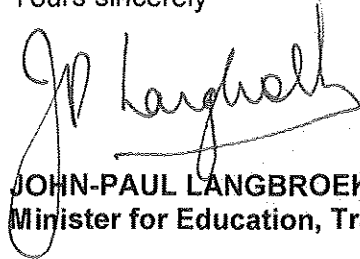
I am pleased to advise that a Memorandum of Agreement regarding services to be provided by my Department to the non-state schooling sectors has been agreed to and signed by all three schooling sectors: Independent Schools Queensland, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and my Department. Under this Agreement, my Department will continue to provide AVT services during 2013 for identified students in non-state schools. The Agreement provides the non-state sectors with a transition period which will allow time to further develop their capacity to support students from 2014.

I can also confirm that professional learning activities for teachers and teacher aides supporting students with hearing impairment and other low incidence disabilities are being delivered across state schools as a part of the More Support for Students with Disabilities National Partnership project. For more information about the National Partnership and the implementation plans being undertaken by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland, I invite you to visit the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' website at www.deewr.gov.au/more-support-students-disabilities.

I have also been informed that the schooling sectors are examining options to combine resources in efficient ways, for example in rural and remote areas, to continue effective service provision and ensure that eligible students with a disability will continue to receive appropriate support.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising this matter with me and trust the response addresses their concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Langbroek', written over a horizontal line.

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