



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

12 NOV 2013

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I acknowledge receipt of Petition 2170-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 15 October 2013 regarding section 15(1) of the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006* (the Regulation) which authorises a principal of a state or non-state school to only enrol a child in the preparatory year (Prep) at the school if the child will be at least 5 years and 6 months on 31 December in the proposed year of attendance at the school.

I understand that the petitioners have sought for an amendment to this section of the Regulation to include an additional arrangement, whereby a child could also be enrolled in Prep if they meet all of the following criteria:

- they will be at least 5 years and 5 months on 31 December in the proposed year of attendance, and
- the child has attended a Queensland Government approved Kindergarten program in the year prior to the commencement of the Prep year, and
- the parent petitions the principal to enrol their child in Prep.

The petitioners' request for parents to have discretion to seek early entry for their child into Prep is noted. Under Section 15(2) of the Regulation, a principal can enrol a child of an earlier age; however this is only if the principal's supervisor, the Assistant Regional Director, is satisfied that the child meets both of the following criteria:

- the child had started education in another state or country that is equivalent to the Prep Year; and
- is ready for education in the Prep Year, having regard to the child's attributes including aptitude and ability, social and emotional competence, and physical development.

I am aware of the important education-related implications of enrolling children in the Prep year. A range of provisions under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* are currently subject to consideration, including those that relate to the Prep year.

The petitioners can be assured that all aspects of this matter will be considered with the aim of delivering the best educational outcomes for Queensland children.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

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