



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

13 OCT 2015

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 2448-15 tabled on 15 September 2015 regarding the provision of education and care opportunities, regardless of vaccination status.

Governments at all levels have a role in promoting public health and wellbeing. Immunisation is a cornerstone of public health as it protects individuals and the community against serious and life threatening vaccine preventable diseases. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to Queensland's immunisation program.

Governments support and implement immunisation programs because it is a highly effective means of preventing serious and life threatening infectious diseases. People who are not immunised benefit because high immunisation coverage builds herd immunity.

The majority of Queensland families support immunisation and have their children vaccinated. This is evidenced by the high childhood immunisation rates in Queensland. This Government is not advocating for immunisation to become mandatory in Australia and acknowledges that parents will always have the right to make decisions on behalf of their children.

The proposed child care vaccination legislation aims to protect children, their families and those who work with children against vaccine preventable diseases. The legislation provides early childhood education and care services with the discretion to decide whether or not to enrol or allow the attendance of children not up to date with their vaccinations.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services