



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

6 SEP 2017

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2742-17, tabled in Parliament on 8 August 2017, in relation to mandatory autism education and training for paediatric nurses, doctors and therapists.

Children and young people with special needs including autism spectrum disorder benefit from individual management plans developed in partnership between families and their clinicians. These need to be communicated and used recognising that a formal pathway or rule creates risk that medical issues may be overlooked.

In relation to the petition, advice obtained from paediatricians and child and youth mental health specialists in Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CHQ), indicates that increased training for clinicians involved in the care of children and young people with autism spectrum disorders is supported and could be provided through on-line training modules that are in the process of development by CHQ.

Furthermore, the details of training advised by the petitioners are highly appropriate and supported. Implementation and frequency of use of the package would need to be determined by health service providers giving consideration to all of the training requirements of staff.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cameron Dick".

**CAMERON DICK MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**