

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petition lodged on 22 April 2004 with the Queensland Legislative Assembly of requesting the release of Mr Craig Knight from duties at the Townsville District Office of Education Queensland to his position as Principal at Millaroo State School.

I am advised that Mr Knight was seconded to alternative duties at the Townsville District Office at the beginning of Semester 2 2003 for what was intended to be a short period of time. Since October 2003 Mr Knight has been on leave from Education Queensland. I am advised that at this time there is no confirmed end date for Mr Knight's leave.

During Mr Knight's absence from the school there has been a replacement officer at the school. The current Acting Principal is a teacher at Millaroo State School and therefore has already established strong working partnerships with the school and local community. In recognition of the particular needs of Millaroo State School and to ensure that the learning program at the school has not been disrupted, an additional teacher has been placed at the school at this time.

This additional teaching resource, which is above the school's current staffing allocation, has been in place since the commencement of the 2004 school year. The additional teacher number will remain in place at Millaroo State School whilst there is an acting Principal at the school replacing Mr Knight.

I believe that the Department has put in place measures to ensure the students at Millaroo State School continue to be supported in a supportive learning environment.

I invite you to contact Ms Vicki Baylis, Executive Director (Schools), Townsville District on telephone (07) 4726 3105 should any further information be required in regard to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for the Arts

Ref: 04/38054