



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3584-21 tabled on 12 October 2021 in the Legislative Assembly requesting necessary action to preserve the accommodation facilities for student, parent and education-related camping during mini-schools and on-campus activities at the Distance Education campuses in Emerald and Longreach.

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff in Queensland schools are of the highest priority for the Palaszczuk Government.

The Department of Education acknowledges that some Schools of Distance Education facilities have been used historically to accommodate parents and students overnight, while visiting for mini-schools, sports days and graduation days.

The facilities at the Longreach and Emerald Schools of Distance Education do not meet building and fire safety standards for overnight accommodation; however, can be used for day activities. Safety and building inspections of these overnight accommodation facilities indicated that upgrades and alterations are required to comply with Class 3 building requirements under the National Construction Code.

To inform decision making, the department has engaged project management firm Lambert and Rehbein to lead the scoping and costing of work required to reinstate overnight accommodation at these campuses and is awaiting the final report.

The department will continue to work with the schools and their Parents and Citizens' Associations regarding options to support students and their families.

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

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
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