



10 March 2006

Office of the
**Minister for
Child Safety**

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
Alice and George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 2 March 2006 forwarding a copy of a petition tabled in the Parliament on 1 March 2006 requesting a review of the Department of Child Safety's handling of the X family case.

Please be advised that the case to which the petition relates is a highly complex and sensitive child protection matter that has been the subject to four separate reviews between 2002 and 2004. Additionally, the department has repeatedly referred its management of this matter to the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team for consideration and endorsement.

The conduct of a further external review of the department's involvement with this family – which commenced prior to the reporting of the case in *The Courier Mail* on 17 February 2006 - reflects the department's ongoing commitment to quality service and open and accountable practice.

The department has also advised the mother referred to in the petition about the Freedom of Information provisions which will facilitate her access to all departmental records relating to its involvement with her family.

The petition related to this matter and presented to the Parliament on 1 March 2006 will be provided to the current external review team for its consideration. However, it should be noted that given the confidentiality provisions of the *Child Protection Act 1999* which prevent case details being discussed with persons who are not a party to the matter, discussion about this case with the petitioners will necessarily be limited in nature.

Yours sincerely

HON MIKE REYNOLDS AM MP
Minister for Child Safety

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