



**Judy Spence MP**  
Member for Mount Gravatt



**Queensland  
Government**

Ref: 3080 F37 JS

Office of the  
**Minister for Police and  
Corrective Services**

24 JAN 2007

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to respond to petition number 755-06 lodged by Ms Rosa Lee Long MP, Member for Tablelands, and received by the Legislative Assembly on 29 November 2006.

The petition seeks the appointment of an investigator from outside Queensland to review all evidence relating to the deaths of Vicki Arnold and Julie-Anne Leahy at Atherton in 1991.

I am advised these deaths were the subject of an initial police investigation in 1991 and Coronial Inquest in 1992. The Coroner found that Ms Arnold fatally injured Ms Leahy and then took her own life.

In response to concerns raised by members of the public, a senior homicide investigator reviewed the investigation in 1993-94 and concurred with the Coroner's findings. As a result of continuing public debate, the then Attorney-General directed a Crown prosecutor to further review the investigation. The prosecutor concluded there was no evidence for the Inquest to be reopened.

During 1997 the then Police Minister, the Honourable Russell Cooper, appointed two former Queensland Police Service Assistant Commissioners to re-investigate the deaths. A subsequent Coronial Inquest in 2000 again concurred with the original findings.

I am further advised that although a complete re-investigation is not warranted, investigators from State Crime Operations Command are currently re-interviewing a number of witnesses. In the event of any significant discrepancies or new evidence being identified, the relevant information will be conveyed to the State Coroner for consideration.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Judy Spence MP**  
Minister for Police and Corrective Services

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