



The Honourable Rod Welford MP



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts**

26 SEP 2007

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 27 August 2007 regarding petition 883-07 concerning teacher aide hours for prep classes.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts is continuing to monitor Prep in 2007 and this will provide information on which to base future prep resourcing decisions.

The findings of the monitoring to date suggest that the teacher aide allocations for Prep strike a good balance between the allotment that was previously made to preschool classes where children were younger and the allocation for Year 1. Prep children are, on average, six months older than the previous preschool age group and do not require the same level of teacher aide support as provided to preschool children.

Should petitioners have any further questions about allocation for teacher aides for prep classes, they can contact Ms Anne Marie Boyle, Director, Prep and Transition, on telephone (07) 3237 0765.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

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