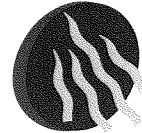




Hon Kerry Shine MP

Member for Toowoomba North

In reply please quote: 508796/1 & J/08/04266



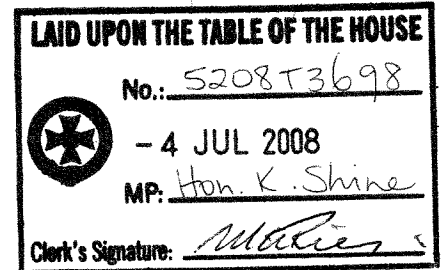
**Queensland
Government**

2 JUL 2008



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier
in Western Queensland

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



Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2008 concerning petition number 975-07 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

In response to this petition regarding any possible charges against Dr Darren Keating, I can advise the following:

Mr Brendan Butler SC was asked to provide advice on whether the available evidence was sufficient to institute proceedings against Dr Darren Keating. Mr Butler's advice indicated that the opportunity to charge under the *Medical Practitioners Registration Act 2001*, expired in February 2007. Mr Butler also advised that although there may be sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case, there was not a good prospect of success on a charge of attempted fraud.

I discussed this matter with the then Director of Public Prosecutions, Mrs Leanne Clare SC. She too considered the relevant material provided by the Queensland Police Service in relation to this matter. The then Director agreed with Mr Butler's advice and indicated that under the DPP Guidelines for prosecutions, she would not proceed with a prosecution against Dr Keating because there were no reasonable prospects of success in relation to a charge of attempted fraud.

It is my duty to consider this matter in accordance with legal principles and the available evidence. It is not in the interests of justice to pursue this case when there is strong legal advice that there is not a reasonable chance of success.

Having considered Mr Butler's advice and having consulted with the Director, I do not propose to take further action on this matter.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kerry Shine MP
**Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland**

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