



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

12 NOV 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
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Queensland Parliamentary Service
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2467-15, tabled in Parliament on 13 October 2015, in relation to continuing to give every child the opportunity for childcare, kindergarten, school or other education or care, regardless of vaccination status.

Immunisation is a very important issue for individuals and our community and one that the Queensland Government takes very seriously to protect all Queenslanders from vaccine preventable diseases.

The Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015, which was recently passed by the Queensland Parliament, aims to protect children, their families and those who work with children against vaccine preventable diseases. The legislation provides early childhood education and care (ECEC) services with the discretion to decide whether or not to enrol and admit children not up to date with their vaccinations.

The Queensland Government strongly believes that all children have a right to access quality education and care. The legislation aims to strike the balance between access to quality education and care, and sound public health. It enables ECEC services to make decisions in the best interests of children's education, and health and wellbeing, in a childcare setting.

The legislation will come into effect from 1 January 2016.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services