



Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events

15 MAR 2016

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
George St
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I request that under Standing Order 32 you table this letter in response to petition number 2541-16 which was tabled in Parliament on 16 February 2016, regarding the future of the Kilcoy Creche and Kindergarten (C&K) Community Kindergarten.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring that all Queensland children can participate in a quality kindergarten program in the year before Prep. This commitment is based on well-established research that demonstrates kindergarten contributes to improved education and life outcomes for children later in life.

I was disappointed to learn of C&K's announcement that it would close the Kilcoy kindergarten service. C&K made this decision without community consultation.

When C&K made the announcement, I directed the Department of Education and Training to work with C&K to address their concerns.

I am pleased to advise that following consultations with the local community C&K have since decided to remain open in 2016 and commenced operations at the start of the year. I understand the future of the service depends on the kindergarten maintaining a sufficient level of enrolments.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to working with the early childhood education sector to provide access to viable affordable kindergarten programs. To this end, the Queensland Government invests significant funding to support the delivery of kindergarten programs.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms Gabrielle Sinclair, Deputy Director-General, Early Childhood Education and Care, on telephone 3034 5976 or by email at gabrielle.sinclair@dete.qld.gov.au.

In accordance with Standing Order 32 it would be appreciated if you could table this response on the next sitting day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Jones', with a small dash at the end.

KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism Major Events