



The Honourable Rod Welford MP



**Queensland
Government**

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

24 DEC 2008

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Petitions received by the Qld Legislative Assembly No. 1183-08

Thank you for your letter dated 5 December regarding the abovementioned petition which refers to the cessation of the delivery of the Certificate I in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft and maximisation of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE's Gympie campus facilities for those students with a disability.

I recognise that the part-time study in Certificate I Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft undertaken by students at Gympie campus has been very rewarding and these students are keen to continue their study in this area.

In acknowledgment of this, I understand the institute has advised the current Certificate I in Visual Art and Contemporary Craft students that it is planning to continue to offer the core units from this program in Semester 1 next year, enabling those students who are close to completing the opportunity to achieve the full qualification.

Wide Bay Institute of TAFE is due to commence marketing and promotion of a new part-time program, Certificate III in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft which will start in 2009, subject to achieving minimum enrolment.

In 2009, the institute will introduce a new bridging program, Certificate I in Work Readiness, which will provide students with a disability a transition to work study option. This program aligns with our Government's strategy under the *Queensland Skills Plan 2008* to engage unemployed or underemployed people by enabling them to develop skills for effective participation in the workplace. The Certificate I in Work Readiness contains a 40 hour structured work placement component which will be extremely beneficial to students.

Departmental representatives regularly attend a variety of forums to exchange information that informs course programming. I am informed that representatives from Wide Bay Institute of TAFE attended a Cooloola Disability Network meeting on 27 November 2008 and a working party has been formed that is tasked with investigating Gympie training options for students with a disability. The institute has offered to support organisations providing training to these students through the use of institute facilities.

To discuss suitable study options for 2009 and beyond, the institute encourages all students to consult its career counsellor. Further information about the institute's commitment to providing reasonable adjustment for students with a disability enrolling in its vocational education and training programs may be obtained from the institute disability services officer.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, you can contact my Senior Policy Adviser, Dr Suzanne Oberhardt, on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

I trust this information clarifies the issues raised in the petition.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

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Your ref: Petitions

Level 22 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335
Email educationandarts@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.education.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158