

147–163 Charlotte Street Brisbane 4000 GPO Box 48 Brisbane Queensland 4001 Australia Telephone +61 7 3035 6100 Facsimile +61 7 3220 6225 Email health@ministerial.qld.gov.au Website www.health.qld.gov.au

1 2 MAY 2016

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

Dear Mr Laurie Neil,

I write in response to your letters regarding petition numbers 2553-16 and 2579-16, tabled in Parliament on 16 February 2016, in relation to water fluoridation. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

The Government recognises that water fluoridation is a safe and effective means of preventing tooth decay for people of all ages. However, the Government is committed to working collaboratively with local governments to support water fluoridation rather than imposing requirements on them. Although the Government has no plans to change the legislative arrangements for water fluoridation in Queensland, it will continue to strongly encourage local governments to adopt water fluoridation as part of a comprehensive approach to improving oral health outcomes.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services