

Level 22 Education House 30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000 PO Box 15033 City East Queensland 4002 Australia **Telephone +61 7 3237 1000** Facsimile +61 7 3211 8011 Email education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

3 APR 2013

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

Dear Mr Laurie Neil

I refer to Petition 2070-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 6 March 2013 regarding teacher and teacher aide staffing at Loganlea State High School – Special Education Program.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is committed to providing a quality education for all Queensland students from Prep to Year 12. An important part of this commitment is the adequate provision of staff to achieve the best outcomes for students.

I can advise that there has been no cut to the allocation of funding in support of students with a disability in the South East Region. In fact there was a modest increase of teacher numbers and teacher aide hours in the Region.

Each year an individual school's resource allocation is responsive to the data the school provides regarding students with disability enrolments and the variable needs level of each of these students. This means that resources to each school will vary from year to year in direct response to the adjustments made for students with a disability identified and recorded by the teachers in the Adjustment Information Management System of Education Queensland.

Loganlea State High School received resourcing consistent with the student data provided by the teachers regarding the identified educational adjustments for the students with disability in their school. While Loganlea State High School has not had a significant drop in the overall numbers of students with a disability, it has had a significant drop (greater than 40%) in its number of students with the very highest support needs. This will result in a very noticeable change in the allocated resourcing, teacher numbers and teacher aide hours, to the school.

In 2011 and 2012, Loganlea State High School received a specific additional allocation of teacher aide hours of 20 hours per week) to support a student with particularly complex needs. This resource is tied directly to the support of the individual. This individual did not reenrol at Loganlea State High School in 2013 so the identified teacher aide hours were returned to the Regional pool for re-allocation.

Each student with a disability has an individual support plan that is developed in partnership with the family, maintaining a focus on inclusive education practices and positive student outcomes.

Loganlea State High School has very experienced staff who are aware of the necessity to adjust and adapt instruction in support of the changing needs of students, in particular where there are transitions from year level to year level or school to school.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising their concerns with me.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms Larelle Frauenfelder, Director, Corporate Services, South East Region on telephone 5562 4888.

Yours sincerely

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JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP Minister for Education, Training and Employment

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