

24 June 2003

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 15 May 2003 forwarding a petition headed "Stop paint sniffing" received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 14 May 2003.

The Government recognises the serious nature of this issue and has set up the Queensland Volatile Substance Misuse Steering Committee to examine a number of options in the preparation of an appropriate response.

Rather than legislative enforcement, a significant component of the State Government's response includes the development of a code of practice for retailers to address substance misuse. This approach has gained support from retailers.

It is recognised that supply reduction is an important component in tackling the issue. However, strategies to reduce demand and minimise harm associated with this behaviour are further aspects requiring consideration.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Min

Hon. Merri Rose MP
Minister for Tourism and Racing and
Minister for Fair Trading