



The Honourable Rod Welford MP



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Education
Minister for the Arts

7 July 2006

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters dated 11 and 31 May 2006 concerning petitions lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 10 and 26 May 2006 numbered 649-06 and 661-06 regarding proposed changes to the religious instruction provisions under the Education (General Provisions) Bill 2006 introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 21 April 2006.

I would like to make it clear that our government strongly supports religious instruction and guarantees its place in schools.

The feedback I have received indicates there are concerns in the community about the proposed changes to the religious instruction provisions. Accordingly, the government has decided not to proceed with the amendments. The status quo will remain.

The existing arrangements regarding religious instruction in state schools have been in place for some time and have not brought significant objections from either parents or the general community.

Thank you for bringing your views on this matter to my attention. I trust this information now clarifies the situation for you and reaffirms the government's commitment to the provision of religious instruction in our state schools.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

Ref: 06/70746

22nd Floor Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone 07 3237 1000
Facsimile 07 3229 5335
Email educationandarts@ministerial.qld.gov.au