



The Honourable Rod Welford MP



**Queensland
Government**

7 July 2006

**Minister for Education
Minister for the Arts**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 11 May 2006 forwarding Petition No. 650-06 which was lodged on 10 May 2006 representing concerns in relation to 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: 06/57871

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