



Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice

19 SEP 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 21 August 2024 regarding Petition No. 4113-24 in relation to establishing a kindergarten at Cedar Creek State School, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing a strong start for all children by ensuring they have access to a free government-approved kindergarten program in the year before school, regardless of where they live.

State Delivered Kindergarten is only offered in schools located at least 40 kilometres by road from the nearest approved kindergarten, in a selected, discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community or other selected communities where there have been barriers to accessing kindergarten. The Department of Education highly values the viability of existing early childhood education and care services.

Families in the Cedar Creek school community are encouraged to use the free kindy finder available at www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/freekindy#/search to locate a government-approved free kindergarten program. I am informed free kindy options are available in both long day care and sessional kindergarten services in surrounding suburbs immediately to the north of the school within a 15 kilometre drive, including the Beenleigh and Mount Warren Park areas.

I understand Cedar Creek State School offers both a playgroup and a transition to school program. The Department's Partnerships and Programs team in the South East Regional Office is available to support the school to explore further early learning pathways and strengthen connections with existing kindergarten providers in surrounding suburbs to ensure positive and confident transitions of children and families to the school.

Families requiring assistance to access free kindy can also contact the Department's Kindergarten Funding team by email at kindyfunding@ged.qld.gov.au or on (07) 3035 2244.

I would like to thank you, the principal petitioner, and every person who signed the petition for their advocacy for Cedar Creek State School.

Yours sincerely

DI FARMER MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Youth Justice