

13 September 2011

Our Ref: 43129

The Research Director
Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee
Parliament House, George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Research Director,

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (QCPCA) FEEDBACK- INQUIRY INTO THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2011

QCPCA welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Inquiry into the Education and Training Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 and would like to thank the Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee for the opportunity to provide input.

QCPCA policy states that 'society must actively protect its most vulnerable members, our children from the trauma of all forms of abuse. Students, parents and teachers have the right to feel safe in their community. Students also have a right to a safe caring environment with provisions in place to protect them. The silence surrounding child sexual abuse must be broken and its victims supported and protected. We believe that the following will assist in addressing this:

1. Community and government should foster a social environment where the existence of child sexual abuse is openly acknowledged and actively addressed
2. Parents, Education Queensland and the government must provide for personal development of children including self-esteem, self-confidence and protective behaviours as a means of defence against abuse of all persuasions.
3. Education Queensland and the government, with the collaboration of external agencies, shall ensure that the policies and curriculum available to promote child protection and development are implemented and active in all schools. The implementation of the policies and curriculum must be measurable and definitive.
4. The silence surrounding child sexual abuse must be broken and its victims supported and protected. Where professional evaluation indicates the possibility of repeat offence, convicted child sex offenders should be indefinitely incarcerated until it can be guaranteed that rehabilitation treatments are effective, potential re-offenders should not be released into the community.

With this in mind, QCPCA support the intent of the proposals made in the Education and Training Legislation Amendment Bill 2011.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you wish to discuss these comments further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Leary', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Leary
QCPCA State President