

30 August 2012

Mr Ray Hopper
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hopper

Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

I acknowledge your correspondence dated 22 August 2012 in which you advised the introduction to Parliament of the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 and invited a submission from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC).

QCEC acts as a peak body for twenty-two Catholic school authorities who are autonomous in their responsibilities for operating Catholic schools within their respective jurisdictions.

Accordingly I have consulted with these Catholic school authorities and the sixteen members of QCEC who include representatives of parents in Catholic schools.

Advice received indicates that, for the majority of Catholic schools, there is no widespread negative effect as a result of the changes to the Labour Day and Queen's Birthday holidays.

However, where there is a negative impact it is very serious for the schools concerned. This is particularly so for some schools who have already set their 2013 calendars and planned large scale events for the originally scheduled long weekend of 4 - 6 May which already involve significant outlays of finance and resources. In one instance, it also involves inconveniencing visitors who have planned some time ago to travel long distances to the event.

It should also be noted that they change in public holidays will have a serious effect on the operation of boarding schools. These schools develop their "home weekends" around weekends which have an adjacent public holiday.

On the positive side schools authorities support the move of the Queen's Birthday holiday back to June and Labour Day to October because this would increase the number of teaching days in second term. However the full effect of this will not be seen until 2014 when schools have been better able to plan for the changes to the holidays.

I trust that the above advice is useful to your committee's deliberations on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mike Byrne
Executive Director