



**Queensland
Government**

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25 AUG 2004

Dr Lesley Clark MP
Chair
Legal Constitutional and
Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Department of
Communities

Disability Services Queensland

Office of the
Director-General

Dear Dr Clark

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2004 concerning recommendations made regarding a preamble for the Queensland Constitution.

I note that when considering this issue, the Queensland Constitutional Convention held in Gladstone in June 1999, commented on the need to achieve broad consensus on shared values to be included in a preamble, through real and genuinely wide consultation with the people.

I have considered the draft preamble proposed by the Queensland Constitutional Review Commission and note that "disability" is absent from the categories identified following the declaration of respect of all persons under the law. Given that a preamble may be intended to be inspirational and aspirational, the inclusion of "disability" would send a powerful message regarding the importance of full and effective participation by people with a disability in the economic, social, cultural and political life of Queensland.

On this basis, you may wish to give consideration to mechanisms for people with a disability and disability advocacy groups to provide comment upon this aspect of the draft preamble.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Clare O'Connor, Executive Director, Policy Directorate, Disability Services Queensland on 322 44970.

Yours sincerely

Linda A Apelt
Director-General

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