



The Honourable Warren Pitt MP  
Member for Mulgrave

13 SEP 2004

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

No 133

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16 SEP 2004  
LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW  
COMMITTEE



**Queensland  
Government**

Minister for  
Communities and  
Disability Services

Dear Lesley

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on an Issues Paper prepared by the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee to explore issues relating to the development of a preamble for the Queensland Constitution. I note that my Director-General, Ms Linda Apelt has already provided comments to your committee on behalf of Disability Services Queensland.

I strongly support suggestions made within the Issues Paper that this important matter be determined in consultation with the people of Queensland. I understand that officers from the Department of Communities have provided earlier information to the committee regarding possible strategies for engaging a wide cross-section of Queenslanders in discussing relevant issues.

I noted with interest that a number of matters relating to the purpose, nature and content of a preamble are of relevance to the vision and work of the Department of Communities and Disability Services Queensland including:

- the values and aspirations of Queenslanders;
- recognition of Indigenous peoples;
- recognition of cultural diversity;
- equality before the law; and
- gender equality.

Should the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee resolve to engage Queenslanders in developing a preamble to the Queensland Constitution, I would support the broad discussion of these matters. I would also like to suggest that any such discussion consider whether the preamble might also refer to the unique nature of Queensland's diverse regions and the importance of strong and inclusive communities which value people of all ages and of diverse abilities.

As you are aware, staff from the Department of Communities have particular expertise in engaging community members in a range of government matters. I would like to nominate Dianne Jeans, Executive Director, Innovation and Development Branch on 3224 7453 as a contact officer should the committee require further information on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP  
**Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors**

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