

ELECTORAL COMMISSION
QUEENSLAND

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

EX52/6

CONTACT OFFICER

David Kerslake

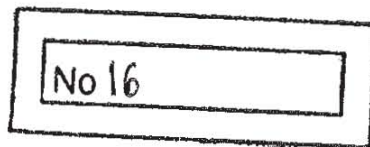
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31 May 2007

Mrs Dianne Reilly MP
Chair
Legal Constitutional and Administrative
Review Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mrs Reilly,

Thank you for your letter of 5th April 2007 in which you enclosed a copy of the Consultation Paper and Interim Evaluation of the "Hands On Parliament" Recommendations. The following is a précis of recent Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) initiatives aimed at increasing the level of awareness of the electoral system within the community.

- ECQ has initiated a project aimed at increasing the awareness of young people about the electoral process. Our aim is to increase the number of eligible young people (ages between 17 and 21) who are enrolled. Under the auspices of a "Vote Y Project" (Vote Y equates to the "Y" Generation), a Communications Officer has been employed to develop and implement a number of initiatives that specifically target young people.
- ECQ is pursuing the issue of including "Electoral Information" as part of the Civics curriculum taught in Queensland schools. Regular contact is maintained with educational authorities, including those who work specifically with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The ECQ has also presented electoral awareness lectures to Bachelor of Education students.
- ECQ has initiated contact with a variety of organisations throughout Queensland with the intention of encouraging the involvement of young people in the electoral process. This process has included contact with a number of radio stations, particularly those with an audience of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, in order to offer information about electoral matters.
- You will be aware that the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General has endorsed a proposal that Queensland host a National Summit on youth engagement at which young people will be invited to discuss ideas about involvement in electoral matters with their peers as well as representatives of all Australian electoral administrations, education and curriculum authorities, parliamentary education officials and academics with a particular interest in this field. The summit will canvass ways to promote youth engagement and education. As the host agency, ECQ intends that Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander youth will be a target group for invitation to the summit, which is expected to be held in the first half of 2008 (perhaps coinciding with National Youth Week).

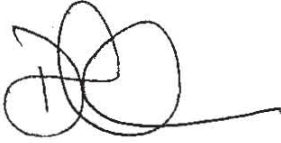


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- ECQ is also developing a series of electoral information brochures, with the intention of providing a quick and simple source of information on electoral matters, particularly for young people. In addition ECQ is producing a detailed electoral information resource publication (called "Elections Queensland") which will be available as a CD. The brochures and the CD will be distributed to all schools in Queensland shortly and will also be available on the Commission's Website. As part of this process, ECQ staff will liaise with representatives from indigenous group about the best way to engage with their communities.

I would be happy to meet with the Committee to expand upon ECQ initiatives in this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Kerslake
Electoral Commissioner