



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

- 2 JAN 2013

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of Parliament  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 2010-12 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 27 November 2012 regarding funding for the Get Set for Work Program.

As part of shaping the 2012-13 State budget, the Queensland Government had to make some tough financial decisions, including the discontinuation of *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SQW). The decision to cease the SQW initiative, which funded programs like Get Set for Work, was made in this context and also in recognition that responsibility for assisting jobseekers to enter the labour market sits with the Australian Government. The Queensland Government has honoured all existing contracts, resulting in nearly all 2012-funded Get Set for Work projects continuing until the end of that year, with a few funded into the first half of 2013.

The provision of employment programs is a responsibility of the Australian Government, which funds extensive services for disadvantaged young people who are looking to transition into further education, training and work.

Federal initiatives such as Jobs Services Australia and Youth Connections are part of the continuum of attainment and transition to work services. Also included in this continuum are State funded training and education services delivered through our schools, TAFEs and through the apprenticeship and traineeship system, providing a range of options to disadvantaged youth.

The Get Set for Work Program was a departmental Employment Skills Development Program as defined under the *Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000* (VETE Act) and the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (EGPA). Legislation requires young people aged 15 to 17 years to be earning or learning; however, Employment Skills Development Programs are one of several options that young people can engage in as part of this obligation. Specifically, section 232 of the EGPA provides six eligible options for young people in the compulsory participation phase, which can be administered by various service providers.

I have been advised that neither the VETE Act nor the EGPA require the Government to provide an Employment and Skills Development Program, such as the Get Set for Work Program.

Providing employment services to disadvantaged jobseekers is only part of the story of helping people into work. Holding a post-school qualification gives considerable protection to unemployment within the working life of an individual. The Government has responded to the Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce which outlines reforms to revitalise Queensland's Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

These reforms will make the VET sector more responsive to industry and reduce the red tape for employers who are wishing to hire new apprentices and trainees. A copy of the Government's Response can be viewed at <http://training.qld.gov.au/industry/skills-training-taskforce/gov-response.html>.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr David Lucas, Director, Skills and Employment by email at [David.lucas@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:David.lucas@dete.qld.gov.au) or on telephone 3224 6222.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John-Paul Langbroek', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

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