



The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth

MC12-001961

The Hon John Murphy MP
Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

19 MAR 2012

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 2012 concerning a petition on the learning resource, *Learning from One Another: Bringing Muslim Perspectives into Australian Schools*.

All Australian governments are committed to implementation of the 2008 *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*. The Declaration sets goals that seek to ensure that Australian school students become not only successful learners but also confident, active and informed citizens who appreciate Australia's social, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. The Declaration can be found at www.mceecdya.edu.au.

The Australian Constitution prevents the Australian Government from making any law to establish any religion, impose any religious observance, or prohibit the free exercise of any religion.

While the Government plays a leadership role and provides funding for areas of national educational importance, such as the development of the Australian Curriculum, it does not run schools or determine the teaching-learning resources they use. These decisions are matters for state and territory government and non-government education authorities and, in many instances, individual schools.

Thank you for bringing the petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Peter Garrett