



Anna Bligh MP



Queensland  
Government

Minister for Education

20 APR 2004

Louise Gell  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gell

Thank you for your letter received on 26 March 2004 inviting Queensland's Department of Education and the Arts to make submissions to the inquiry into the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Teaching Profession) Bill 2004.

The trend towards a declining number of male teachers is a concern. That is why in 2002, Education Queensland launched the *Strategic Plan for the Attraction, Recruitment and Retention of Male Teachers in Queensland State Schools 2002-2005* (Male Teachers' Strategy). The Male Teachers' Strategy addresses the factors that impact on the recruitment and retention of male teachers within Education Queensland and promotes teaching as a respected profession, and included a proposal for male teacher scholarships.

At the time the Department was advised against proceeding with the offering of the scholarships due to anti-discrimination concerns. The Department recognises the quality of the teaching workforce as a whole, but remains committed to achieving a teaching workforce that is increasingly comprised of a greater diversity of role models that reflect the composition of the society in which the students live.

Queensland welcomes the inquiry into the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Teaching Profession) Bill 2004, provided thorough consideration is given to unintended consequences.

For further information I invite you to contact Mr Paul Leitch, Director, Strategic Human Resources on telephone (07) 3404 3966.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely

**Anna Bligh MP**  
**Minister for Education and**  
**Minister for the Arts**

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Floor 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 33 Brisbane Albert Street  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email education@ministerial.qld.gov.au