



Premier of Queensland

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06 FEB 2024

The Honourable Di Farmer MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Youth Justice
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Dear Minister

Together we have a responsibility each and every day to make Queensland an even better place, to create opportunities, tackle challenges, and deliver for hardworking Queenslanders.

Easing cost-of-living pressures, delivering better healthcare and more housing, and keeping our communities safe are core priorities that we are all responsible for driving, regardless of which portfolio we lead. Collectively, we must also focus on safeguarding Queensland's future by lifting our ambition on climate action, while supporting new industries and creating jobs where they are needed most.

This letter outlines a range of delivery priorities in your portfolio, which I know you will work relentlessly towards achieving.

The highest priorities I want you to focus on as Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice are to:

- drive increased educational achievement and engagement in Queensland
- ensure the effective implementation of 15 hours of free kindergarten per week for all four-year-olds in Queensland, with a focus on increasing kindergarten enrolment of vulnerable children
- reduce youth crime using all levers available through the education and youth justice systems, particularly early intervention
- target the causes of youth crime through early interventions, rehabilitation, and reintegration supports to prevent offending.

Listening to the voices of Queenslanders and working closely with other ministers will be essential to achieving meaningful outcomes. The priorities set out in the attached portfolio priority statement will also inform chief executive officer performance agreements and shape the functions and activities of departments and agencies.

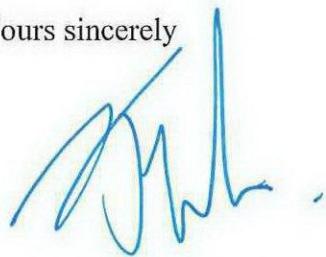
In delivering on these priorities, please ensure you are working with your federal and other Australian state and territory government counterparts to ensure Queensland's interests are proactively represented and the benefits to Queenslanders are maximised. I will meet with you regularly to discuss progress in implementing the actions identified.

At all times, I expect that ministers and assistant ministers will make all decisions and take all actions in the public's interest, without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.

We cannot achieve our goals for Queensland without the public service, and I expect that ministers and their staff will engage with chief executive officers and departmental staff with the utmost respect and in accordance with *The Queensland Ministerial Handbook*, *Ministerial Code of Conduct*, *Code of Conduct Ministerial Staff Members'* and the *Protocols for communication between ministerial staff members and public service employees*. I refer you to Governing Queensland for the suite of policy and administrative handbooks, which is available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's website at www.premiers.qld.gov.au.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to deliver better services and create opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "STEVEN MILES".

**STEVEN MILES MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**

*Encl

Portfolio Priorities Statement

Minister: Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice

The Hon Dianne Farmer MP

Department: Education

Youth Justice

Whole-of-Government Priorities

Overarching Direction	<p>All Ministers to work together to deliver the government's priorities for Queensland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting jobs: Good, secure jobs in more industries to diversify the Queensland economy and build on existing strengths in agriculture, resources and tourism.• Keeping Queenslanders healthy: Ensure all Queenslanders can access world-class healthcare no matter where they live.• Educating for the future: Give our children the best start by investing in our teachers and schools.• Listening to Queenslanders: Bring together business, industry, communities, and unions to work together for Queensland's future.• Backing our frontline services: Deliver world-class frontline services in key areas such as health, education, transport and community safety.• Keeping communities safe: Support police to work with the community to tackle the complex causes of crime and support victims.• Making it for Queensland: Grow manufacturing across traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways and creating new jobs.• Investing in skills: Ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future.• Protecting the environment: Protect and enhance our natural environment and heritage for future generations and achieve a 70 per cent renewable energy target by 2032, 75 per cent emissions reduction by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050.• Growing our regions: Help Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity.• Delivering the Big Build: Drive investment in the infrastructure that supports the State's economy and jobs, builds resilience and underpins future prosperity.• Deliver more homes: Provide more social homes and work with all levels of government to increase housing supply across the state.• Providing cost of living relief: Continue to use our energy assets to deliver savings on energy bills, and freeze or reduce costs where we can.• Honouring and embracing our rich and ancient cultural history: Create opportunities for First Nations Queenslanders to thrive in a modern Queensland.
Consultation	All Ministers and their staff to meet regularly with the community and key stakeholders to inform policy development and achieve the best outcomes for all Queenslanders.
Integrity and Accountability	All Ministers and their staff demonstrate transparent, accountable, and ethical behaviour and make all decisions and take all actions in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.

Collaboration	All Ministers, supported by their Chief Executive Officers, establish strong working relationships across portfolios to deliver the Government's priorities.
Investing in Our People	All Ministers support their Chief Executive Officers to focus on motivating and increasing the capability of the public sector.

Government Commitments

Election Commitments	All Ministers prioritise the delivery of all election commitments.
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Delivery Priorities

Education	<p>Continue to implement the <i>Equity and Excellence: Realising the potential of every student</i> education strategy, with a focus on driving educational achievement, wellbeing and engagement, and culture and inclusion for every state school student.</p> <p>Continue to implement the initiatives of the <i>Great Teachers, Great Future</i> policy, including the <i>Turn to Teaching Internship</i> program and the recruitment of 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides to meet student growth and maintain nation-leading teacher to student ratios.</p> <p>Continue to deliver new, expanded, and upgraded education infrastructure, including a pipeline of new schools, to accommodate growth across the State.</p> <p>Lead the implementation of the Government's <i>Local Schools, Local Jobs</i> policy, working with the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water to deliver new and upgraded training facilities in state schools across Queensland, ensuring young people have the right skills for regional economies to grow.</p> <p>Continue to engage children and young people with disability in learning to improve educational outcomes and provide inclusive education for all students.</p> <p>Continue to develop strategies to improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across Queensland by focussing on key outcomes, including improved attendance, participation, engagement and retention rates.</p> <p>Work with the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts to support the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>Work with relevant Ministers to continue to support the development and delivery of early interventions that improve outcomes for children, young people and families, break intergenerational cycles of disadvantage, and assist in preventing youth offending, including through targeted support for students who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging in education, training and employment, and through the <i>Youth Engagement Strategy</i>.</p> <p>Continue to support kindergarten participation and access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, including through the delivery of State Delivered Kindergarten.</p> <p>Implement <i>Free Kindy</i> from 1 January 2024 to provide access to 15 hours of free kindergarten per week for all four-year-old children in Queensland, and deliver supporting initiatives to ensure children and families have access to quality early childhood education and care including the <i>Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Strategy 2023-2027</i>.</p> <p>Continue to support students to build healthy and respectful relationships by delivering the strengthened Respectful Relationships Education in Queensland state and non-state schools.</p> <p>Support the wellbeing and mental health of Queensland students by delivering the Student Wellbeing Package, including increasing the wellbeing workforce, General Practitioners in schools program, and delivering the expanded Share the Dignity initiative to provide free sanitary products to students at all state schools in Queensland.</p> <p>Support parents and families through overseeing the improvement of Outside School Hours Care facilities across Queensland.</p> <p>Continue to support the implementation and monitoring of the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–26</i> in conjunction with the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.</p>
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	<p>Continue to support the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs in reporting on acceptance and implementation of recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of people with disability.</p> <p>Lead and coordinate engagement with the university sector focused on education, skills, training, and the linkages between schools and universities, in collaboration with other relevant Ministers.</p>
Youth Justice	<p>Support the delivery of early interventions to improve outcomes for children, young people and families, and in turn break intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and help prevent youth offending. This will include Early Action Groups, as well as supporting cross agency initiatives across government.</p> <p>Continue to lead the development of initiatives to rehabilitate youth offenders and reintegrate young offenders into the community to help prevent offending, improve outcomes, and reduce demands in the youth justice system.</p> <p>Lead the development and implementation of the next Youth Justice Strategy.</p> <p>Support the 2023 amendments to the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> to strengthen accountability for serious repeat youth offenders.</p> <p>Support delivery and evaluation of the 2023 investment package targeted at serious repeat offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime, and investing in community safety.</p> <p>Continue to implement and expand evidence-based programs to prevent entry and re-entry into the youth justice system such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition2Success; • Youth co-responder teams; • Youth and family support services; and • Restorative justice conferences. <p>Work with the Minister for Police and Community Safety to prevent youth crime.</p> <p>Oversee the expansion of On Country programs in Cairns, Mount Isa and Townsville focussed on intensive case work support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who are repeat offenders in the youth justice system, supported by the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts.</p> <p>Work with Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts to support the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap including the development of Queensland's annual Closing the Gap implementation plans in a co-design approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and their representatives.</p> <p>Continue to oversee the delivery of rehabilitative program responses for young people in detention, with a focus on preventing re-entry into the justice system, and continue to prioritise the delivery of additional youth detention centre capacity which is informed by therapeutic principles.</p>
National Agreements, National Partnerships & Significant National Reform Projects	<p>Support the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment in relation to negotiation, management, and implementation of any intergovernmental funding agreements relevant to your portfolio.</p> <p>Represent Queensland interests on National Ministerial forums relevant to your portfolio. Work with the Federal Government and other state and territory jurisdictions to develop the next version of the National School Reform Agreement, to ensure it maximises Queensland students' educational outcomes and opportunities.</p>