

Attention: Mr Barry O'Farrell, Leader of the NSW Opposition  
Parliament House,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Phone (02) 9230 2270  
Fax (02) 9221 8208  
Email LOP@parliament.nsw.gov.au

23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2007

**Re: Maximising Student Achievement in NSW Government Schools**

Dear Mr O'Farrell,

I was heartened to hear you speak so eloquently and passionately over the last week on the topics of the deplorable state of the toilets, and the health hazards relating to drinking water, in NSW government schools.

However, it has been disheartening to observe that there does not appear to have been any statements, questions, or further interest in regard to those matters relating to school libraries to which I have drawn to your attention for the last few months. Indeed, I have not had a reply to my correspondence to you of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

Whilst not intending to draw any comparison between the relative importance between current health issues and the educational outcomes of Australia's future generations of decision makers, it may be of interest to note that many non-DET schools have similar concerns regarding plumbing – but notably do still manage to strive towards supporting their school libraries to achieve the Best Practice through adequate funding, staffing, allocation of adequate administration time, and the appropriate recognition of the work of Teacher Librarians.

It appears that the Minister for Education and Training is brushing these matters aside as “industrial issues”, when the first three are clearly the result of the unlimited nature of “principals’ discretionary powers” that result in inequities for the **760,000 students** enrolled in Public Education and have a **zero-cost solution**. The fourth is the result of a bizarre and inexplicable policy decision by the DET itself; whilst having a financial implication, there is clearly much room for rationalisation of other expenses.

Attached on the following pages are a copy of the latest fax sent to Mr Della Bosca, and also a copy of an email sent to Ms Trish Kelly who acted “on behalf of the Minister” in making [his] determination.

I sincerely hope you will give these documents due consideration, and look forward to the support of you and your staff. Once more, I am more than happy to supply any further information or documentation that may be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Credaro  
[Private Address supplied on original fax]