



TREASURER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Mr J. Turrisi
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Dear Joe

I have contacted the Minister for Education regarding your concern about the teaching of Italian in Queensland primary schools.

There does appear to be some concern among teachers of Italian and community members that the Government's initiatives into Languages Other Than English (LOTE) does not target Italian as one of its priorities.

Mr Braddy has advised there is no intention to abolish the Italian language in primary schools. In fact programs for the teaching of Italian and other languages will continue to be available in schools.

The Department of Education will support, maintain and develop Italian (and other languages presently being taught) in line with submissions made by Regions according to established criteria. The LOTE initiatives prioritize languages that at present are not being taught in schools and where there was a need to provide an immediate balance. Unfortunately, this list led some readers to believe that the existing languages would be abolished.

I have attached a pamphlet from the Department of Education of its LOTE initiatives which states that current initiatives in Italian and Spanish will be developed and expanded.

You may be assured that the teaching of Italian in Queensland schools is considered important and every effort will be made to ensure its continuation.

Yours sincerely

Keith De Lacy
Treasurer and
Minister for Regional Development