



**MID YEAR GRADUATE TEACHERS
1 July 2004**

Schools across the State waiting to offer contracts to graduating teachers from term 3 may now not be disappointed.

The Member for Flinders Mrs. Liz Penfold raised the issue in Parliament with the Minister for Education & Children's Services, Hon Jane Lomax-Smith.

"There is the distinct possibility that classes will be disrupted because of a delay in teacher registration because university and DECS staffing timelines do not dovetail, Mrs Penfold said.

This situation leaves teaching graduates unemployed for up to 3 weeks from the beginning of term 3 despite schools needing their skills particularly in rural and hard to place schools.

The Minister thanked Mrs Penfold for her question and said "I will certainly ask the Teachers Registration Board whether there is any way that the process can be speeded up, because I can understand the Honourable Member's point. It would be a pity if there were suitable teachers who were qualified and about to get registration but who were unable to teach until two weeks into the term. I will certainly look into that and get back to her as soon as possible."

Mrs. Penfold thanked the Minister for Education & Children's Services in anticipation of a satisfactory outcome to this bureaucratic delay.