



Media Release

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P&C Council Response to the *Towards 2020* proposal

P&C Council rejects the *Towards 2020* proposal and is appalled at the time frame and the process the Government has put in place to consult with the community. The Government must defend and promote public schools not close them and remove access to them.

"P&C Council is calling for an extension of the consultation period to the end of March 2007 with the implementation of any changes to schools to start from the start of the school year 2008", said Council President, Ms Jane Gorrie.

The time frame for the consultation period does not allow for adequate consideration by all the communities involved of the issues raised by these wide-ranging proposals.

The proposals change the structure of the delivery of educational services to the whole of the ACT.

No reliable data and evidence has been provided to support the move away from the current model of schooling to the proposed model. This has to happen now. The Government must show that the proposed model will attract and keep students in our government schools. They must provide the evidence to support the claims that the proposals will provide a high quality education system and that is sustainable into the future.

The Government needs to justify to the community the proposals for each school. It has to provide the educational, social and financial reasons for each school closure and each school amalgamation for each college, each school and each preschool. That information must be made available to the public as soon as possible.

The Government must encourage and accept public submissions on alternatives to the Government proposals to demonstrate a genuine commitment to a consultation process that may produce final results that differ significantly from the Governments proposals.

If these changes are only proposals and no decision will be made until 6 months genuine consultation is finished, then give us the data and evidence, show us the justification and engage in real consultation. A failure to do so proves that they are decisions, not proposals.

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