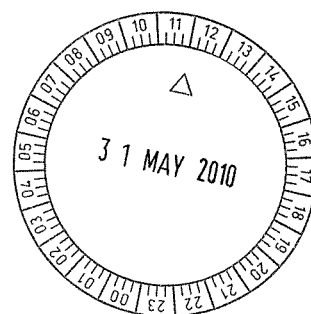


NAME OF COMMITTEE: STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES
AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION: KOJONUP WORKING Inc.

NAME OF CHAIRPERSON: CATHY WRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, KOJONUP WORKING Inc

CONTACT DETAILS: PO Box 57 Kojonup WA 6395
0417 178 614
9832 8034



PUBLIC

Ms R. Jewell
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee in Estimates and Financial Operations
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Jewell

RE: Inquiry into the Removal of Year 11 and 12 Courses at District High Schools

Please find following a submission to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations in response to the recent advertisement in *The West Australian* of Saturday 8th May 2010.

Our community has been most impressed with the implementation, through Kojonup District High School, of the raising the school leaving age (RASL) initiative. Many of our youth who previously would have floundered, now have strong guidance towards developing as constructive contributors in a diversity of workplaces including local, metropolitan and otherwise. It has been an invaluable bridge from school to work; it provides connected continuity of effective lower secondary career development programs involving community to well considered engagement directly with and alongside potential employers; it follows up that shift with meaningful transition support for those students in work.

We seek to ensure Kojonup youth have the same opportunity into the future, for the betterment of whatever community these young people regard as home in their life journey. The Standing Committee is most strongly urged to recommend the continuation of the senior schooling model of 2007 – 2009 for Kojonup.

Yours sincerely



Cathy Wright
Chairperson, Kojonup Working

27 May 2010.

RETENTION OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL KOJONUP

A CASE IN RESPONSE

It is strongly argued that the Kojonup DHS Senior School should be retained in the form and with central resource support provided (including enrolments through the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE)) as was the arrangement for Senior Schooling under the initiative of 2007 – 2009. The following are the arguments in support of this case.

For students (excluding students progressing towards TEE) . . . retain the Senior School to:

- provide a supported educational environment for students in Kojonup in the Raising the School Leaving Age (RSLA) context who demonstrate potential for disengagement;
- enable access to applicable ongoing career planning and career development guidance as they mature and, through local relevance and connections, enable them to engage in seriously considering their future;
- provide positive direction and targeted focus in developing work place skills so they can approach employment opportunities with knowledge, purpose and confidence;
- promote employment skills of students and prospects for employers through connections made in the individual pathway planning process and consequent interactions with local community members;
- enable point of need assistance for often complex personal (student) situations/issues requiring localised, trusted and respected support not always available through family;
- enable timely monitoring and relevant interventions as required to maintain academic progress;
- enable effective and efficient liaison with agencies such as Great Southern Institute of Technology and the School of Isolated and Distance Education that reflects the individual contexts;
- enable access to local casual employment opportunities/experience otherwise inaccessible if students are travelling or located elsewhere;
- enable the maintenance of family, social connections and networks that in turn nurtures emerging leadership within the local community for its sustainability and future viability;
- redress identified/acknowledged rural educational disadvantage with a proven delivery structure/model strongly supported by its local community;
- enable efficient use of student time (on learning) rather than in being in a bus/dealing with living in conditions for which such students may have inadequate emotional capacity to satisfactorily settle to work productively.

For the Town . . . retain the Senior School to:

- maintain breadth in age range of productively employed residents in the town to participate in sporting, community and other social activities;
- enable continuation of services within the town given an identifiable employment pool and creation of increased demand for services into the future;
- enable ready access and encouragement to pursue further education by other than senior students as information about re-entering a schooling/TAFE pathway is thus resident, accessible and available;
- retain highly positive representation of public education in the community;
- enhance interest in shared development of youth through school and community working collaboratively in the interests of these students.

If Senior School does not continue in its original form . . .

- Community support for any compromised model unlikely.
- Demand upon DoE Participation Coordinators anticipated to be considerable with potential disengagement likely to increase significantly.
- Timeliness and cost of services to mitigate against diminishing work readiness skills likely to be well beyond the existing capacity and cost in the longer term;
- Loss of leverage in working towards a productive, sustainable community;
- Loss of expertise and trusted networks to re-engage youth and enhance individual well-being;
- Impact upon business, community organisations and choice in recreational activities with likely further demise of the school age population within the town (and consequences of that upon the rural environment).
- Viability into the future of the offerings within the district high school (K – 10).

Further background information

- Further background paper (APPENDIX A); and
- Letters of support from a diversity of community based organisations, independent groups and concerned individuals (including parents) (APPENDIX B).

Cathy Wright

Chairperson, Kojonup Working

[From the outset, Kojonup Working has strongly supported the Senior Schooling initiative including forming a community-based subcommittee which meets regularly in an advisory and supportive capacity to the Senior School. Its members are well acquainted with the ongoing issues encountered by Senior Schooling staff and have been actively involved in the celebration of its outstanding successes.]

27 May 2010

APPENDIX A: FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

KOJONUP DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOOL – AN EFFECTIVE INITIATIVE IN THE EDUCATIONAL MIX

BACKGROUND

Establishment

- established to provide education and training opportunities for local youth beyond Year 10 within Kojonup, particularly for students at risk of disengaging requiring flexible schooling, individualised educational program development, supervision and support.
- sought to enrol only students unable to access other schools (financial, cultural, school bus access), thereby not envisaged as a substitute for other senior high schools usually accessed.
- Developed in collaboration with the community that has witnessed the strong support of its retention through the proven contribution it makes to the youth of Kojonup, the heightened awareness of educational access to adults, the access by employers to known apprentices likely to remain with this employment to list a few reflected in the 25 submissions to the Minister prior to the announcement of the Standing Committee Enquiry.
- Included community organisations integrally in the accommodation of the school (CWA) and monitoring of outcomes (Kojonup Working)

Recent Development of consideration

- closure of the residential wing at Katanning for student access by students located beyond reasonable bus access;

ACHIEVEMENTS - SUMMARY

- Featured in two DoE State Engagement Conferences – 2007, 2009 as reflecting ‘best practice’ with its ‘natural community’ based model that individually addresses disengagement of youth, especially Indigenous youth, with relevant support.
- Strong Kojonup community endorsement as a model to enable effective transition from schooling to the workplace, through actual achievements in developing the skills of Kojonup youth, engaging those acknowledged as a challenge, especially within the Indigenous community, and as future leaders within the community.
- Exceptionally positive demonstration raising the confidence in public education in Kojonup and the sustainability of the Kojonup school community.
- The creation of an adult learning environment and culture (workplace compatible) in the Senior Schooling location being physically separated from the Kojonup DHS campus (ready access to and by businesses) and by the very visible position (to general public, local community, future employers) thereby necessitating high expectations of students as individuals, as representatives of our school and more generally the Kojonup community (behaviour, uniform). That those expectations have been honoured by students reflects the regards with which this opportunity is viewed by these students.
- A ‘Celebration of Success’ is held annually to acknowledge the role of the community in assisting Senior School students and as tangible representation of the need to strengthen our youth towards ensuring a strong community into the future and that this events is strongly supported and heralded as reflecting the tangible contribution of meaningful, relevant public education.

DETAILED DEVELOPMENTS

2004

- 11 students from Kojonup DHS commenced at Katanning SHS and by late term 2, none remained.
- Kojonup community perception that Indigenous cultural issues were the basis for conflict within Katanning SHS environment and potentially placing students at risk. This remains a current concern.

2005

- Evidence of Kojonup disengaged youth creating security issues in and around town. Call for opportunities to address emerging educational issues locally as part of a solution.

2006

- New school leadership expressed interest in exploring development of a senior school (as established in a previous DHS);
- Government policy change with the *Raising the School Leaving Age* initiative providing timely encouragement and resources resulting in establishing the KDHS Senior School for 2007, including adoption of the 'natural community' model incorporating community support, this reflected in CWA support with premises, Kojonup Working (KW) cooperation in sharing the CWA building and KW being a partner in successful Local Community Partnership (Hotham Valley-Pallingup Lakes) application for the development of the 'natural community' model, and in offering career development support.
- Target: to initially enrol between 6 and 8 students.

2007

- Enrolments: 9 x Year 11, 5 x Year 12 (with 3 students enrolling through experiencing disengagement from other schools).
- Outcome: Of this initial group: 9 students proceeded to work including apprenticeships (3), 2 students (Year 11) returned to studies in other schools (for Year 12), 2 students took up home duties (with children), 1 returned home (out of district).
- Staffing: 1 FTE teacher [Jody Thomas-Smith with Heidi Tyler (DOTT)] through Participation Directorate
- Courses: in-school subjects, SIDE packages, TAFE courses, Workplace Learning, School-based Traineeships
- Support: CWA and Kojonup Working (extensive assistance and support); Shire (Finding My Place), Health Nurse (Core of Life), ADEO [Lindsay Campbell (ADEO Manager, Participation) and financial support (ETPPCC)]

2008

- Enrolments: 5 x Year 11, 8 x Year 12 (with 4 students enrolling through experiencing disengagement from other schools).
- Outcome: Of the group (excluding above): 10 students proceeded to work including apprenticeships (3), 2 students (Year 11) returned to studies in other schools (for Year 12) with 1 of these returning to KDHS (disengagement from the original Year 12 destination school), 1 returned home (out of district).
- Staffing: 1 FTE teacher [Jody Thomas-Smith with limited EA assistance] through Participation Directorate

- Courses: SIDE packages, TAFE courses, Workplace Learning, School-based Traineeships
- Support: CWA and Kojonup Working (extensive assistance and support) and service clubs; Shire (Finding My Place, Library), Health Nurse (Core of Life), ADEO [Lindsay Campbell (ADEO Manager, Participation), Nikolai Emery (ADEO Participation Officer) and financial support (ETPPCC - \$11000)]

2009

- Enrolments: 14 x Year 11, 6 x Year 12 (with 2 students enrolling through experiencing disengagement from other schools). A further 4 were on the Participation roll.
- Outcome: Of the group (excluding above): 6 students proceeded to work including apprenticeships (3), 3 students (Year 11) returned to studies in other schools (for Year 12), 2 returned home – 9 continuing for 2010.
- Staffing: 1 FTE teacher [Jannings/Kiely/Hewton] (through Participation Directorate) with Program Coordinator [Smith] (through KDHS)
- Courses: SIDE packages, TAFE courses (GSTAFE), Workplace Learning, School-based Traineeships.
- Support: CWA and Kojonup Working (extensive assistance and support) and service clubs; Shire (Library), Health Nurse (Core of Life), ADEO [Lindsay Campbell (ADEO Manager, Participation) and financial support (ETPPCC - \$5000.00)]

Note: The status of Senior School for 2010 was unclear until last week of school, 2009. Given this, a deliberate strategy was invoked for 2010 to reduce to an absolute minimum the enrolments at Senior School when there was considerable pressure from parents for the Senior School to be more widely available. Thus, *it could appear that enrolments have diminished through lack of support when it was quite the reverse.*

2010

- Enrolments: 14 x Year 11, 6 x Year 12 (with 2 students enrolling through experiencing disengagement from other schools). A further 4 were on the Participation roll.
- Outcome: N/A
- Staffing: 0.64 FTE (through DoE-CO) but increased to 1FTE for teacher [Jannings/Stretch/Woodhams] (through DHS allocation) with Program Coordinator [Smith] (through DHS allocation).
- Courses: SIDE packages, TAFE courses (GSTAFE), Workplace Learning, School-based Traineeships.
- Support: Community: CWA and Kojonup Working (extensive assistance and support) and service clubs; Shire (Finding My Place, Library), Health Nurse (Core of Life), ADEO [Nikolai Emery (ADEO Manager, Participation) and financial support (ETPPCC - \$4000.00)]

SENIOR SCHOOL CASE STUDIES

The following stories represent some of the scenarios we have encountered at the Senior School. It gives a clear picture of how this school has assisted students to further their education and training in an environment they would not have had access to if the Senior School was not operating. For obvious reasons the names have been omitted and replaced with Student #. These are indicative only of many of the situations presenting at the Senior School and are only taken from 2009 – 2010.

Case study 1

Year 11 student, 2009

Student #1 had a family situation where the mother didn't want him living with her, and her partner did not speak to him at all. He was not enrolled at any school having come to live with his mother from Bunbury. They lived out of town and he was not able to access the bus from Kojonup to Katanning. A very disturbed student coming from a very dysfunctional family situation, he was able to find a place where he could come and be accepted for who he was. He enrolled in courses with SIDE which enabled him to work towards his WACE. Student #1 went from an angry, sad, lonely child to a confident, able student who was able to conduct himself in an acceptable manner with adults and his fellow students. At the end of 2009 he went back to Bunbury to live with other relatives and is currently enrolled in year 12 studies.

Case study 2

Year 12 student, 2009

Student #2 lived in Kojonup and went to school at KDHS until year 10, came to the Senior School for years 11 & 12. He was not prepared to go to Katanning and found himself constantly in conflict with authority. With the Senior School and its expectations, he was able to feel comfortable within given guidelines. He accessed a workplace learning course which lead to student #2 being confident enough to apply for an apprenticeship. He was accepted and now lives and works in Bunbury.

Case study 3

Year 11 student, 2010

Student #3 is a capable student who was not able to attend school in Katanning as she has family commitments. She needs to be home with siblings at the start and end of the day while the parents are at work. The course units she has chosen mean that she is able to achieve the levels she needs to be able to move onto a career of her choice. At the same time she is able to help keep the family together while the parents bring in an income.

Case study 4

Year 11, 12, 13

Students #4, #5, #6 have learning difficulties that need addressing in a small group situation. These students have been able to access courses suitable to their needs. At the Senior School we are able to give the students the attention they need and they are not lost in the system and end up disengaged through being confronted with what they perceive as complex social, educational and emotional situations. We are able to assist them to bridge to a level of confidence and competence for which it can be their choice to enter or otherwise situations which otherwise they would avoid.

Case study 5

Year 12, 2010

Student #7 has been enrolled at the Senior School to complete her schooling while she works. In 2009 her year 12 program at a public residential school was disrupted due to emotional health issues. She is now able to work in the evenings and study during the day to complete her education. Student #7 has been able to enrol in the courses she needs to complete her WACE.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (PER ANNUM)

By maintaining the original DET Senior Schooling model and for the numbers enrolled (workable capacity of 16), it has been found to work most effectively with a teacher and an

EA/Program Coordinator. Complex home/life situations which normally would result in disengagement can be avoided through focused individual support from staff to assist these students with life skills, learning not available in their environment; with work tasks, it relates to work skills – to become better organised and disciplined in themselves to confidently progress in the meaningful more adult-focused and career directed learning environment afforded through this Senior Schooling.

Kojonup is geographically placed distant from major centres. This has historically been an issue in the progress and recognition of achievements of its students. Thus, the alternative is believed to be a considerably more costly/resource demanding alternative without likelihood of the outcomes sought from the raising the school leaving age agenda being achieved. A participation officer without having the strong local links and a strong understanding of the individual student's background/situation is unlikely to successfully connect strongly with individuals within our small community and hence be unable to provide that bridge for these students.

The issues of accessing the bus to attend Katanning for some students prohibits their access, family financial capacity to fund students boarding away, the capacity of individual students to cope with living apart from their family, and the cultural issues relating to other communities are but some of the issues which potential parents see as factors that may prohibit or inhibit accessing or engaging effectively in schooling if the Senior School alternative is not available.

IN SUMMARY

The students leaving year 10 now have a choice to attend school in our town where they are able to access education and training in an environment that caters for individual needs. Academically oriented students are strongly counselled and enrol in other than the KDHS Senior School. We seek the Senior School to remain for those for which it was originally intended – students most likely to disengage and VET oriented.

The Kojonup community has embraced the Senior School and offered support through work place learning, donations of various kinds, and general enthusiasm towards the concept that we are helping the young adults of Kojonup become contributors to the positive welfare of the broader community.

It is critical that this community-based belief in this educational provision is honoured, that the strong evidence of success is acknowledged and for the sake of the future of the Kojonup community, future senior students have access in order they have elevated life options as has been evident from past graduates.

APPENDIX B: LETTERS FORWARDED FROM COMMUNITY



Lions Club of Kojonup

**PO Box 150
KOJONUP WA 6395**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lions Club of Kojonup wishes to support the efforts of the Kojonup District High School to retain the Senior School Campus.

The town of Kojonup is situated in the centre of the Shire which covers 2932 square kilometres. For students who live north, west or south of the town, access to travel to Katanning to access post Year 10 schooling is difficult, involving parents having to bring students into town by car, as school bus services do not connect.

This then means that these students, regardless of parents' financial situation or the ability of the child to survive away from home, are forced to consider boarding to complete their education.

Some children are not emotionally able to deal with leaving home at this stage, and the Senior Campus provides a realistic option for these students as well as those who are reluctant to travel to Katanning for social or cultural reasons.

The Senior Campus provides education within our community, has broad community support, and a history of positive outcomes within the community.

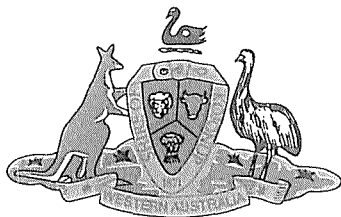
Kojonup Lions Club asks you to consider the implications on our children of the closure of the Senior Campus, and to decide in the best interests of our young people.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terri Neuzerling".

Terri Neuzerling
Secretary

17th March 2010



Shire of Kojonup

93 Albany Highway, Kojonup
Postal Address: P.O. Box 163, Kojonup
Western Australia 6395

TELEPHONE: (08) 9831 1066
FACSIMILE: (08) 9831 1566
E-mail: council@kojonup.wa.gov.au
www.kojonup.wa.gov.au

Your Ref.

IF PHONING OR CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR

Hon. Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA
Minister for Education
19th Floor
Governor Stirling Tower
197 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

18 March 2010

Dear Minister

Re: Kojonup Senior School

This letter is written in support of the Kojonup District High School - Senior School. The Shire of Kojonup has received tremendous feedback from the community since its inception, and view it is a valuable method of delivery to support government policies on the school leaving age.

The Shire of Kojonup has benefitted directly from the senior school by supporting year 11 & 12 students staying in the district and we have employed two apprentices this year from the program after initial exposure through structured workplace learning.

The Shire is concerned at reports that the senior school is being considered for closure. We ask you to consider the outcomes for the community, and the impact of forcing additional students to board in other towns. Of those who may stay in Kojonup and access Katanning High School we ask you to consider the inability of any rural students to make the connection with the bus to Katanning and the social effect of them having reduced access to after school activities due to the late return.

As a member of the regional Human Services Forum, representing 13 Shires, I get to see first hand the social impact of education policy. We commend the senior school as a true community based model.

Yours faithfully

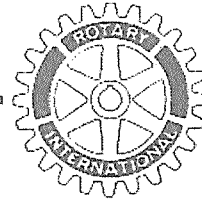

Stephen Gash
Chief Executive Officer

ROTARY CLUB OF KOJONUP, WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc.)

(MEMBER OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL)

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



DISTRICT 946

President Dick Ker Phone

Secretary Michael Rogers Phone 12 March 2010

P O BOX 122
KOJONUP WA 6395

The Director General of Education
Department of Education
151 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE:

The Rotary Club of Kojonup has enthusiastically supported the local Kojonup District High School both financially and 'in kind' through a diversity of initiatives to enhance the experiences of the children in our district. We have witnessed the development of structures within our local public school to better manage students in their secondary years of study towards successfully making the transition from formal schooling to the commencement of productive work. An integral component in achieving such success has been the development of the Senior School for year 11 and 12 students. This initiative has enabled students who might otherwise become disengaged from education, training or work to be guided through possibly a combination of these to be well prepared to realistically apply and gain productive work as a starting point towards a successful career.

Our membership was recently informed of the impending closure of the Senior School. Although few members have direct connection with enrolled students, Kojonup has a supportive community that concerns itself with seeking ways to make provisions for youth. Since the development of the Senior School in response to the government raising the school leaving age, there has been an increased awareness of the importance of enabling supported progression from schooling to the work place for a community such as Kojonup. Culturally, geographically and economically, many Kojonup youth have experienced difficulty in making the journey successfully. Through a 'natural community' model, there has been strong ongoing community support (e.g. location of the school in CWA premises, Kojonup Working integrally involved in making connections within the community and promoting possibilities).

Employers now have local talent that can be sought and employed that enables these young people to have a clear future, to enjoy their interests in local activities which may have been that way for some time, and where they can choose to maintain close connections with family and friends in their growth as leaders in sustaining the fabric of our town. We see the Senior School as enabling dreams to become reality for our youth.

sustaining the fabric of our town. We see the Senior School as enabling dreams to become reality for our youth.

Accordingly, we seek a reversal of the decision to close the Kojonup District High School Senior School and for the Kojonup District High School to be resourced to enable it to continue the effective senior schooling program evidenced through the many positive outcomes in our community over recent years emanating from this initiative.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL ROGERS
Secretary



Kojonup District High School P&C Association

President: Kit Anderson Tel: 9834 3030
Secretary: Michael Prandi Tel: 9831 1401
Treasurer: Gary Cavanagh Tel: 9831 1125

Email: m.prandi@wn.com.au



18th March 2010
To Whom It May Concern

The Kojonup District High School P&C would like to support the continued operation of the Senior School. We value education and acknowledge the often surprising results and achievements of the students who attend the Senior School that are only made possible due to the dedication and pastoral care of the staff and ongoing support of wider community members. If this centre was to be closed we are very concerned about what would happen to the children who should be going into Year 12 next year and a significant number of students currently in Year 10 who are highly likely not to go away to school or attend Katanning Senior High School. It would be an utter shame to see these students doing nothing instead of accessing the outstanding educational opportunities available through our Senior School.

Students from the Senior School have played active roles on the School Council and assisted the P&C with fundraising efforts over the last 4 years. Their individual development into young adults and input into the school decision making processes make them worthwhile members of our school and wider community. The way in which these young people are viewed by local people has been significantly improved through the programs and events run by the Senior School. The students have a much better chance of reaching their individual potential and finding ongoing work or continuing with their education due to the life skills and self management skills that are integral to everyday life at the Senior School campus.

There are students who do not have the support of their families to be able to attend boarding schools or be driven to bus stops daily to access the bus to Katanning. In a society where education is not necessarily valued by all we want the students of our school to be able to get an education if they want it and not have to be held back for family, financial, geographic, cultural or developmental reasons.

We strongly urge you to allow our Senior School to continue offering the service to students who genuinely need it.

Yours sincerely

“Pine Avenue”

Kojonup
WA 6395

25th February 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing as Chairman of Kojonup Working in support of the Kojonup District High School Senior School.

Kojonup Working is a community based group whose aim is to support and foster growth in the Kojonup Community. Its purpose is to assist in –

- Career Development
- Employer and Employee education and training
- Linking jobs to suitable employees

When the leaving age for students was raised to 16 in 2007 and subsequently to 17 in 2009, Kojonup Working was in an ideal position to offer our premises, already equipped with computers, to the Senior School so local students unable to attend schools in other districts for a number of reasons, were able to continue their schooling in Kojonup. Kojonup Working representatives form part of the Senior School Advisory Committee which meets regularly to oversee the running of the Senior School, to form a link with the community and to mentor and support those directly involved in the Senior School.

We see the Senior School as an extremely important facility, which supports our students in the following ways:

- Our students have the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe environment. Many past students struggled in mainstream schooling and started Senior School as awkward, difficult under-achievers and have grown into able, confident youths who make a real contribution within the community. We would like this life-changing experience available to future Kojonup students.
- A number of our students are Noongars (how many Tania?) and there is strong feeling between them and Katanning Noongars. Kojonup Noongars will not attend school in Katanning for this reason.
- Some students receive little support from home to continue in education and training. Staying local allows them to be monitored and mentored by us in the way that “it takes a village to raise a child”.
- For many of these students, the alternative educational possibilities are limited and they will become a problem for Participation Officers in our district. For some, studying SIDE subjects from home will be extremely difficult and support, limited. The schooling we currently provide is accessible and non-threatening and works for these students.
- Some people might say that these students would be better off in a bigger school and community, to broaden their horizons, even though some might ‘fall by the wayside’. It

is precisely those students who would 'fall by the wayside' for whom we are trying to provide a future.

The Senior School also ensures the continued viability of our community and our District High School. It does this by:

- Creating strong links with businesses in town which are keen to engage suitable students in apprenticeships, thus ensuring the continuation of their businesses and a secure future for these young adults.
- Ensuring that residents of Kojonup have the option of schooling their children within the town and are not forced to leave for their children's education, thus retaining our population.
- Giving our students an appreciation of the fact that the community cares about them and is prepared to assist in their future and the sustainability of their town.

Kojonup Working urges you to do all that you can to keep our Senior School open and recognise the important role it plays in the future of our youth, our town and our community.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Wright
Chairman
Kojonup Working
Ph 9832 8034

Kojonup Branch, Country Women's Association of WA Inc
P O Box 83, Kojonup WA 6395

17th March 2010

Hon. Dr. Elizabeth Constable, MLA
Minister for Education
18th Floor
Governor Stirling Tower
197 St. George's Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Dear Dr Constable,

Senior School Campus, Kojonup District High School

We write on behalf of members of the Kojonup Branch of the CWA of WA Inc. to support the continuation of funding provisions to enable the Kojonup Senior School campus to continue operating beyond the end of this year.

The benefit to the students of the Senior School in Kojonup cannot be counted in dollar terms.

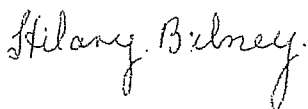
When the school leaving age was raised from 15 to 16 (2007) then to 17 (2009), the pressure on students who have perhaps limited ability academically, but plenty of talent in other directions, was immense.

Being able to stay in their home town, receive an enormous amount of teaching support to assist them in developing skills to ensure their future education and employment is of incalculable benefit. Many of the students are still very "young" in emotional and confidence terms and being able to access such support and teaching in their local environment means they have the opportunity to develop in a very caring and safe base.

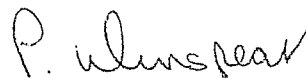
We urge the State Government to continue funding the Senior School Campus in Kojonup beyond the end of this year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hilary Bilney
President



Mrs Pat Winspear
Secretary



Hon Dr. E Constable.

Minister for Education. Parliament House

WA

SAFER KOJONUP COMMITTEE

C/O SHIRE OFFICE, KOJONUP

Dear Dr. Constable,

Our committee wishes to appeal strongly for the retention of Years 11 and 12 in our area.

Many of the children who attend these classes would be unable to go to the nearest senior high school – Katanning – either because their parents cannot afford hostel fees or because they live out of town and have no connecting bus to the Katanning bus. Also some of the children are not willing to go away from home and would simply refuse further education if they had to travel; included in these are some disadvantaged children who are needed to look after smaller siblings when their parents start work at 7 am or so – until ordinary school bus time.

Our committee was originally started because of outbursts of youth vandalism and misbehaviour in the town. Our aim has been to keep the youth of the town occupied; we started with a breakfast club to get the children to school and for the last six years or so our members have run a machinery restoration course at the school to interest those boys who have no academic talents and have had a painting project for girls. Youth behaviour in the town has improved considerably and we feel that much of the reason for this is that the older children are well occupied and interested in their studies and work experience as Year 11 and 12 students. If these classes were closed many of these teenagers would be unable or unwilling to go away and would lose their chances of job training and be roaming the streets.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bunny.

Hon Sec Safer Kojonup

17th March 2010

To Whom it may concern,

Re: Closure of Kojonup Senior School

Our daughter Stephanie, completed Year 11 at the Senior School in 2009 and is presently at the Senior School for Year 12. Stephanie is profoundly disabled as a result of an aquired brain injury and requires a full time Education Assistant. In 1998, when Steph was 5, she received a severe kick to the head by a horse, leaving her in need of total care, unable to speak (uses an electronic communication device and Makaton sign language) or walk (uses an electric wheelchair) and having multiple medical issues. Despite her limitations, Steph has a wonderful disposition and her comprehension is age appropriate.

We live on a farming property 30 km's South West of Kojonup. Stephanie is transported to and from school by the School Bus service. When Steph completed Primary School, we believed year 10 would be her final year of school, as we basically didn't have any options for her to complete year 11 and 12. Katanning was our closest Senior High School, 70 km's away, without a bus service from the farm.

Then education or training was made compulsory until the age of 17 and the Senior School commenced in Kojonup to meet the needs of all our young people who couldn't or wouldn't attend a Secondary School outside of Kojonup.

Stephanie's program is prepared by Liz Deague, a Special Ed teacher at S.I.D.E. Liz keeps her very busy and the working environment of the Senior School is especially suited to Steph's needs. Much of her work is carried out on the computer and Steph has learned to correspond with Liz by email. She has progressed from using a trackball mouse to a conventional mouse and can navigate her way around the screen independently (great achievement!!). Her program also includes integration into the community, whereby she has to interview the proprietors of the business houses using her communication device, to encourage social participation, increased independence and enhanced support networks. This is in preparation for Post School Options which is an alternative to employment program offered by the Disability Services Commission, which Steph will commence on completion of her schooling. Senior School also provides a very close social interaction with her peers.

Stephanie's progress at the Senior School has been monumental. It has facilitated her transition into society and enabled better communication skills. Life for us would have been very challenging to say the least, without it. Sadly, if it were to close, Steph would not have the opportunity to build on these skills in year 13. Although Steph is an isolated case, we feel the benefits are just as great for all the other students, who in their own way, also have special needs and the Kojonup Senior School meets their needs and transforms them into pro-active members of society. We feel that more Senior Schools need to be built, not shut down, as society needs them. Please keep the Senior School open.

Yours sincerely

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is more stylized and appears to be 'M. Reid'. The signature on the right is simpler and appears to be 'P. Reid'.

Myles and Paula Reid

"Gracefield"

KOJONUP WA 6395

To Whom It May Concern:

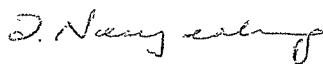
I write in support of the continued funding of the Senior Campus at Kojonup District High School.

I am a qualified and experienced career counsellor, holding a Certificate 4 in Career Development, and spent three years as Manager of the Wheatbelt office of the Employment Directions Network (EDN). I have also worked in the JobNetwork field as a Case Manager for long term unemployed, and have recently spent three years managing a Community Development Employment Project for Southern Aboriginal Corporation.

As part of my duties with EDN, I visited many District and Senior High Schools to run workshops and counselling sessions. One of the many things I learned in working with students is that education is an experience that should be tailored to the individual.

The Senior Campus at Kojonup has the ability to tailormake its programs to suit students from a variety of backgrounds, social skills and intellectual abilities in a way that would not be possible in a larger environment. An acknowledged network has developed within the community in support of the students at the Senior School which has seen these young people gain traineeships, apprenticeships and even management opportunities. These Kojonup youth now have a clear future through the natural community connections. Students are able to develop and grow in this supportive environment in a way that would not be possible in e.g. Katanning Senior High School.

In twelve years of working in employment services, I have worked with a great many people who were let down by the education systems of the day. Please don't allow these kids to join them.



Terri Neuzerling

17th March 2010

"Pillinwaberup",

Kojonup. 6395

The Honourable Dr Elizabeth Constable,
Minister for Education & Tourism,
19th Floor. Governor Stirling Tower,
St. Georges Tce.,
Perth. 6000

Dear Dr Constable,

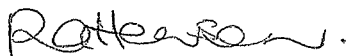
As a member of the Kojonup community I am writing to support the efforts of the Kojonup District High School to retain the Senior School Campus..

In your press statement which went to air on Regional News on the morning of 16th March 2010 you stated that very little money would be saved in the proposed closures of the Year 11 & 12 Campuses. I am baffled as to why the closures are then necessary.

Please read the letter sent to you from the Senior School Community Advisory Committee which gives very good reasons why the Senior School should be kept open. Isn't it far better to have a facility in a country town to enable young adults to reach their potential than to see them, maybe, fall through the cracks? To say that these young adults can just get on a bus to the nearest town is to fail to realise the problems that some of these children experience.

I urge you to keep the Senior School open to the present and future young adults of the Kojonup Shire and in doing so recognise the important role it plays.

Yours faithfully,
Rosemary Hewson.



Kojonup Occasional Care Centre Inc.
PO Box 241
KOJONUP WA 6395
Ph: 98310001
Email: kocc09@bigpond.com
Crn Honnor Road & Elverd Street

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to offer my support to the cause of keeping the Kojonup DHS Senior School open. As co-ordinator of the Kojonup Occasional Care Centre I have worked closely with staff and students from the Senior Campus over the last few years and understand that the facility is much more than just a school.

I have had students placed at the centre for Work Experience, Structured Workplace Learning and Traineeships. I take on these students not only to assist them in their career explorations and aspirations, but also to promote growth in our industry because I know how important having quality trained staff is. While we will, and have, taken students from other schools, the thing I have noticed that makes the KDHS Senior School unique is the very strategic and targeted way that the staff work with each individual student in co-operation with many different agencies to put together courses that suit that student's specific needs. Rather than having to fit into timetables and programs in a one size fits all setting, this school goes out of its way to find innovative ways of delivering training so that distance is never a barrier to the students achieving their own goals.

The knowledge of the staff and the networks and connections they have also assisted my other Child Care staff in accessing further training to improve their skills and therefore offer the best service to our town's children. The Senior School staff members are all local people who give freely of their time to do whatever it takes to get the Senior School students the best education they can. This enthusiasm for learning and further training is inspiring to others and has led to the centre becoming a go to point for many people around town who are seeking further education through TAFE or external University courses. There is always someone at the Senior School willing to answer questions or research further into the possibilities of what and how people can study flexibly without having to leave town. The students become so proficient at studying through SIDE and externally through TAFE and using online learning that they are confident and competent to mentor others in the community to pursue their own dreams. This centre is a rich and valuable resource that works in harmony with the services and businesses in town and the opportunities it provides for the students are exceptional.

The location of the KDHS Senior School is within walking distance to our Child Care Centre which has been very handy for students to be able to access their "home" during lunch breaks and discuss their experiences with their teachers. The relationship between the staff and students is such that they truly value the input and feedback they get from each other. There is time for students to debrief and discuss successes as well as work through any problems or issues that may arise. Being so close means that if there was ever an issue staff would be available immediately to offer support to the student or myself if required.

As an employee, I feel fully supported by the Senior School and have been honoured to receive invitations to the Celebration Dinner each year to acknowledge the achievements of the students and to accept their generous thank you in conjunction with the Local Community Partnership group who partially fund the evenings. There are no awards presented at these events, but a heartfelt summary of the opportunities that local businesses and organisations have provided the students and a comprehensive presentation of what the students have all achieved. It is an atmosphere of community where all the people who have played a part moulding these young adults, spend time reflecting on how they have grown and look forward to the future. It would be devastating for all those involved in the KDHS Senior School to have it all taken away, what future would they have then?

I believe that the KDHS Senior School should continue to operate as it is until such time as there is no longer a need. While there is a need and students wish to work at our Child care Centre, I will continue to support the school with its program and urge anyone with influence to allow KDHS Senior School to keep making a difference in the lives of the students who attend there.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Rowe
Co-ordinator
Kojonup Occasional Care Centre



18th March 2010



J D & P A McGregor

Maybenup, Albany Highway, Kojonup
P O Box 301, Kojonup WA 6395 Western Australia
Phone 08 9831 0401 Fax 08 9831 0404
Mobile 0417 942 326 Email MAYBENUP@bigpond.com
Web page www.ardcairnieangus.com

19th March 2010

Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA
Minister for Education
18th Floor, Governor Stirling Tower
197 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Constable,

My husband and I have farmed in the Kojonup area for twelve years; prior to that, we farmed in the Mt Barker area for 24 years. We are passionate country people and care very much about our local towns and our community. To this end, we shop as much as we can in our local towns and in both instances, find that we can source almost all our needs there.

We farmed in the Mt Barker area as our children were growing and were indeed fortunate that as our boys went through primary school, there were successful moves which changed the District High School into a Senior High School so our two sons were able to complete their education locally.

Now we have moved to the Kojonup area, the school leaving age has been raised from 15 to 16 in 2007 and from 16 to 17 last year. We have watched with great interest the development of the Senior High School campus in Kojonup, as it enables local children, many of them living considerable distances from the town, to access excellent teaching with educational (and emotional) support while still living at home. Students also access S.I.D.E. programmes. With the evolution of the internet, the possibility of a varied, positive and excellent education in small country towns is much more achievable than in the past. A continuation of the current Senior School arrangements in Kojonup (and in other similar situations) is much more desirable for maintaining healthy rural communities, the survival of which is fundamental to the well being of Western Australia.

We understand there is a move to close these facilities and write to urge you and the State Government to re-consider this move and permit such Senior School facilities across the State to continue.

Yours sincerely,

for Jim and Pam McGregor

19-03-10

Julie Sullivan

Chaplain, Kojonup District High School

Blackwood Rd

KOJONUP, 6395

To Whom it may concern

As chaplain at Kojonup District High School, I would strongly like to object to the proposed closure of the Kojonup Senior School.

As chaplain, I have had the pleasure of being in a position to encourage and counsel many of the students attending the Senior School, not only for years 8-10, but also for years 11 & 12.

Many of the students who attend the Senior School are either disengaged from learning in upper school, or simply are too shy or lacking in confidence to travel to other towns or to board away from home.

It has been amazing to watch these young people grow personally, emotionally as well as educationally as they engage in the wonderful learning environment offered at our Senior School. The smaller numbers, individual learning programs, work experience and caring teachers and assistants have been just what these students needed - and they were able to stay at home in their loving family & community environment.

It has also been great to have been able to continue to be their chaplain - someone they already have a relationship with. This would not have been able to happen if they had to commute to school or leave home. I have seen the growth and maturity development of these students that has happened purely because of our wonderful Senior School.

Please keep our Senior School open for the use of our local students in future years.

Julie Sullivan
Chaplain

V Woodling
8

Kojonup 6395
18/03/2010

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to
support the continuation of the Kojonup
Senior School.

Although I don't currently have a child attending the Senior School I can see the great benefit they have given to helping the past students to develop their life skills, education and training to enable them to be an asset to our community. Just last year alone there were a number of students that got apprenticeships due to them attending the Senior school and from the help of the teaching staff in which they put 100% effort in to each student.

I have a child now attending Kojonup in year 10 and have major concerns for his continuing education

next year due to medical conditions
I am unable to send him away
to school and even the distance
to Katanning is not acceptable
due to the severe nature of his
conditions.

I urge you to reconsider the
proposed closure of the Senior School
and carefully look at the benefits
it has offered our children in
the past years.

Yours Sincerely

Vanessa Wooding.

I'm writing to you to support
our local Senior School.

My son attended Rojonup Senior
School 2008 and 2009. While being
enrolled there the staff members
showed him how to become independent
and how to reach his capabilities
in his education and work skills.

As the Rojonup Senior School has
a small amount of students
attending, the staff are able to put
100% in each student.

My son is now employed in a career
that has earned him an apprenticeship.
In which all thanks should go
to the staff of the Senior School.
Rojonup for there huge amount
of guidance.

Please reconsider the
proposed closure of the
Senior School Rojonup

Yours Sincerely

Glen & Linda Porter

Dianne Schubert
Curly Wig Salon
101 Albany highway
Kojonup WA 6395

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the closure of the Kojonup senior school. I feel that this is very short sighted indeed, I for one have benefited from the senior school as I were able to have one of the students come to my place of employment one day a week. This gave her an insight into her chosen career which after she enjoyed, she had a real flare for this career also, she fitted in with the other staff just like one of the family. As a result I employed her and she is in the final year of her apprenticeship. These students may be buds just waiting for the right surroundings and the right conditions waiting for there little moment in life to blossom and with the care and guidance that the senior school is able to give these students I feel we will have more success stories. These students are at a cross roads please don't rip the carpet out from under their feet as they may take a not so successful path and so - who gets to choose the fate??

There are a great many people in this world, and we don't all fit into the same size box, also some very successful people have come from humble beginnings to achieve wonderful things because someone cared enough to allow the passion to develop. With the continued senior school I may never have to look to far a field for staff in the future.

From myself being able to employ one of these wonderful students I - thank you, and hope that the powers from above will see that we all need somewhere to start, and this is a GOOD ONE.

Regard

Dianne Schubert
25/03/2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

After graduating from Year 10 I had no idea what I wanted to do. I didn't want to leave home and board. I tried Katanning SHS and didn't like it. I enrolled in a TAFE course that I didn't care if I passed or failed. I had no idea what career I wanted and it was hard to find decent jobs without Year 12 graduation. I was sixteen and miserable.

When I found out there was going to be a senior school in Kojonup I was thrilled. I still didn't know what career I wanted in the future, but I knew I wanted to graduate Year 12 and I did. I also got to try different careers which helped me figure out what to do with my life.

If there was no senior school in Kojonup I would still be sitting at home with no job, no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no ambition.

So many people have given up their time and put effort into our senior school. We fundraised for our school, we established uniforms and policies, we are proud of what we have created in our little school. We deserve to have a senior school in our town.

I am now a happy, ambitious and educated person. That would never have happened without our senior school and the wonderful people involved.

Leave it open for others to benefit like I have, please.

Yours sincerely
Donna Clarke

I am a Year 12 graduate student of the Kojonup Senior School. I attended Kojonup as Katanning was too great a distance which took its toll on me and it showed in my grades. My transfer to the Senior School began with me being a shy person. After a few months at the Senior School I became student representative on the School Council, attended classes I never thought I could and completed school programs at high standards. If it wasn't for the staff at the Kojonup Senior and SIDE showing me the abilities I have I never would have completed my schooling at the level I did. After school I travelled then came back to Kojonup to study to become a teacher, whilst studying I am in a job which uses all the skills I developed ONLY at my time at the Kojonup Senior School. I urge you to think long and hard and reconsider the proposed closure of the Senior School of Kojonup.

Yours sincerely

Kyrran Howell

Jody Thomas-Smith

KOJONUP WA 6395

19 March 2010

To Whom It May Concern

Re: support for the continuation of the Kojonup District High School Learning Centre


I am writing as a parent and community member with the added bonus of having the knowledge and experience of the teacher who set up the Kojonup District High School Senior School. To hear that the Senior School that has been widely recognised as a successful and progressive model is going to be closed is heartbreaking for me.

My priority always has been, and always will be, the wellbeing and education of young people and the promotion of family values. Kojonup is my home town. I did my education here to Year 10 before attending Katanning Senior High School. I suffered terribly from motion sickness and had to board in Katanning with family to be able to complete Year 12. Boarding school was not an option for my family financially. While going through uni I was surprised to hear that I was apparently disadvantaged because not only did I come from a government school, but from a country area. That did not stop me graduating as a Secondary teacher and teaching in the Pilbara before returning to Kojonup, taking part in an international exchange to the USA and receiving a Premier's Teacher of the Year, Round 2, Award in 2005 as well as obtaining Level 3 teacher status and winning a promotional position to Deputy Principal at one stage. Not bad for a girl from a disadvantaged education according to my peers at uni.

I have three children of my own and I strongly believe in keeping them at home for as long as I can. I take responsibility for their upbringing. I am proud of the young people they are growing into and I want them to have every opportunity to achieve success in whatever they choose to do with their lives. I also enjoy their company and feel I have earned the right to spend my time with them, they are my kids and before I know it they will be grown up and independent. These high school years are vital in their development and I want to be there to help them through all that comes with puberty, relationships, career decision making and their education programs – I am a recognised and qualified expert in these areas, why can't I provide that service to my own children? I cannot afford to send them to boarding school, nor do I want to. I would be happy for them to attend Katanning Senior High School, except for the fact that my daughter suffers from motion sickness, just as I did. The Katanning Residential College has now closed down and I no longer have family in Katanning for my children to stay with. The Senior School model is one that serves disengaged students wonderfully, but it would also work for students wishing to do their TEE because SIDE offer programs that are available at most senior high schools. I have worked so hard to establish the senior school and just as my own children are getting close to accessing an innovative and exceptional opportunity, it is about to be taken away.

Please allow it to stay open.

Yours sincerely


Jody Thomas-Smith

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my concern over the closure of the Kojonup DHS Senior School.

I am a mother of a child who has attended the Senior School for year 11 and year 12 and is now currently studying year 13 at the Senior School to enable her to complete her WACE.

My daughter has a learning difficulty. If she had a disability she would be entitled to Education Assistant time but as she is classified as only having a learning difficulty she is not entitled to any assistance or one-to-one help in a mainstream school. This, for her, would mean she would not be able to complete her subjects to a satisfactory level to achieve her WACE. At the Senior School my daughter is able to have individual contact with her SIDE teachers at almost any time that she requires help, the classroom teacher and education assistant is available to assist all the students one-to-one on a regular basis and almost immediately.

During the 2 plus years my daughter has attended the Senior School she has improved dramatically in her school work, always achieving higher than the expected average to pass her WACE, this has only become possible due to the nurturing that has been offered to her. She has also learnt some very invaluable life skills and undergone individual training and career development programs, students at the Senior School are expected to learn appropriate communication with community involvement and work readiness.

The confidence and skills she has obtained could never have been possible at a main stream school for my daughter and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have been able to send my daughter to the Kojonup Senior School.

I urge you to reconsider closing the Kojonup Senior School and look closely at the benefit this has had on all the past and present students.

Yours sincerely

Tania Smith
Concerned parent

Kojonup 6395
WA

Minister for Education
Ms Constable,
Parliament House
Western Australia

Dear Ms Constable,

I write to you in support the continuing funding of the Senior School Campus at Kojonup District High School.

I am writing, firstly as a mother of two adult sons, as an ex-teacher, as the Chairperson of the Kojonup Uniting Church and as a concerned member of the Kojonup Community.

I have watched with interest, the development of the Senior School in Kojonup and have been pleased to see the positive impact it has had on the students, their families and the community as a whole. Having to struggle financially to send our boys away for the final two years of their schooling, I have always been acutely aware of the fact that parents who have equal aspirations for their children, do not always have the financial wherewithal to send children away to boarding schools. Also, for a variety of reasons Katanning School may not be a viable option and so schooling has ceased. Up until the opening of the Senior School in Kojonup, Katanning High school was the only option. I have become aware of the difficult circumstances faced by some of the students who have been attending the Senior School in Kojonup. This includes needing to care for younger siblings, a real concern of going to school in Katanning because of real racial tensions, physical disabilities that prohibit traveling and some would not be able to come from their homes on farms to catch the buses to Katanning each day. The Kojonup Senior School has provided a well received option for such students. With the introduction of compulsory education for Years 11 and 12, it is up to the Education Department to provide places of learning for all students. Some of the students have also been referred to as being 'disengaged' pupils. In my enquiries I have discovered that the classes for 'disengaged' students in Katanning are already full with students from that town, so Kojonup pupils would not be able to attend or at the best only increase the sizes of these classes to an unmanageable level. Surely this is not what the Education Department had in mind when they decided to make education for Year 11 and 12 compulsory!

May I add to this what I have personally seen since the introduction of Senior School in Kojonup. I have seen students in Years Nine and Ten, who previously looked at their future with no hope and no ambition, now seeing a way to complete their education in the friendly atmosphere of their own town and within a familiar environment – so important for young people who come from vulnerable or unstable home backgrounds. I have seen parents engaging in helping their children achieve their goals in a way that was not as evident for some – because those parents could not see a way in which they could help their children. I have seen young people who were not engaged in any learning or work activity now proudly studying and learning

on campus and also within many of the businesses and work places within town which are prepared to give them consistent work experience and mentor their progress. These students now feel that they have a place in the community and an identity as young people with a vision for their future. I have also heard of the group of children that this year raised money to go to Perth to meet their SIDE teachers and had experiences in the city that until now some have never had – with glowing reports of their behaviour and enthusiasm.

Many of these children found the schools system up until Year 10 to be difficult. This opportunity to work in a smaller group or as an individual responsible for their own progress, to be treated like young adults, to have people recognize their needs and help them work through them, and to recognize and build upon their gifts is a golden opportunity that has been welcomed and embraced by all the community. To cut the funding from this programme, expecting that all the students will attend Katanning School on a regular basis, is both short-sighted and lacking in the understanding of the situation of such young people. It also means that hope for their future is also lost. Many have advised you that this has been a successful programme, and I wish to add my voice to those asking you to reconsider. The Senior School in Kojonup is serving the community - the students and many others - and to continue to fund the Senior School into the future it to allow these children to have their hopes and dreams - as other children do.

Yours respectfully,

Barbara Hobbs

Barbara Hobbs

cc. Mr Terry Waldron

To the Minister for Education
Hon. Liz Constable
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
Perth
WA 6000

Dear Ms. Constable

I am sending this letter to you in support of maintaining the operation of the Kojonup District High School Senior School in our Shire.

I am interested in this as a community member and believe there is a great need in the district for educational opportunities for every young person, even if their parents cannot afford to send them to boarding school, even if they have become disenchanted with the system, even if they have some handicap which renders them unable to take advantage of boarding systems, even if they have not the slightest desire to go to University or if they live a totally unreasonable distance from the bus travelling to the nearest High School.

It seems the KDHS Senior School caters for all these types of students with a wonderful network of support from within and outside the district.

Especially with the Government policy change raising the school leaving age it is good for less academic students to be able to stay at home, perhaps to help with the business run by their parents, or begin apprenticeships, while at the same time continuing some studies with local people acting as mentors and supervisors. The fact that they are accepted as valued students should help them grow in confidence and to appreciate and care for their town, district and community.

Ms. Constable I see in the West Australian on Wednesday, that you suggest Distance Education as a possibility. Most parents would be totally daunted by the idea of taking on home schooling at Year 11-12, besides if they both work it would surely be impossible; now their children are able to attend the Senior School and be professionally supervised and monitored, it seems to be a wonderful solution.

Any students desiring to go on to University - perhaps they may be disadvantaged in some way, or just needed at home - will have access to all they need to get to Tertiary Level with the Distance Education available through the KDHS Senior School. I believe most, if not all Year 11 and 12 subjects are available through the Distance Education Scheme.

Our KDHS Senior School is also important because it is another valuable aspect of our Shire, keeping families in the district, providing work for some great people with much to give, contributing to local finances, and who knows, in the future these small Senior Schools might be able to network, meet up with others with similar interests or needs, share facilities for visits and experiences so that they do really have equal educational opportunities with metropolitan students.

I really do hope you will review the decision to close this section of our School and support all the wonderful, well considered work which has been done to establish it, the success already achieved, and the hopes of our community for continued achievements and opportunities for our young people.

Yours sincerely

K.J. Mathwin.

Mrs. K.J. Mathwin

(Katherine Jane Mathwin)

Kojonup WA 6395
17th March 2010

Sender: Pam McGregor

Reply Requested: Yes

Type: Government policy or legislation

Expression of dissatisfaction or complaint: Very concerned about the comments by Mr Grylls about closing all the Senior Schools attached to District High Schools in Western Australia. Centralisation is NOT what we need in this State and country Members of Parliament ought to be battling for the country areas - as indeed, should city MPs - the economy of WA resides mainly in the country areas and maintaining the rural communities (which includes continuing well-functioning Senior Schools as in the Kojonup Senior School) is of the utmost importance.

Resolution requested: Continuing the funding to enable Senior Schools to operate beyond the end of this year.

From: Boydell, Jacqui [mailto:Jacqui.Boydell@mp.wa.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2010 12:02 PM

To:

Subject: Closure of District Highschools

Good afternoon Mrs McGregor

Thank you for your email dated 24th of March 2010 with reference to the closure of District High schools year 11 & 12.

Brendon Grylls and the Members of the Parliamentary National Party do understand the concern surrounding this issue. Brendon and National Party MP's are working very closely with the Minister for Education, Hon Dr Liz Constable MLA to ensure that any changes that are made, will be made to provide the best options available for all students.

There are 55 District High Schools across the State, with 21 likely to be affected by the proposed changes.


Where there is one or two year 11 or 12 students at a school, then the option of those students attending a larger Senior High School and accessing a better educational outcome should be supported.

In this case the student has three options:

1. Bus to a larger school if possible.
2. The ability to attend boarding school, if appropriate (Boarding away from home allowance has been increased through Royalties for Regions).
3. Study in home town through SIDE (Schools of Isolated and Distance Education) with the support of the local school.

This year, 8 District High Schools (Wyndham, Dalwallinu, Mukinbudin, Narembeen, Quairading, Brookton, Corrigin and Wagin) have been asked to encourage students to enrol in the nearest High School, with 14 students in total possibly affected.


A further 13 District High Schools are listed to encourage a phase out of year 11 and 12 over 2010 and 2011, affecting 78 students. These schools include: Kojonup, Gnowangerup, Southern Cross,



Wyalkatchem, Carnamah, Dongara, Boddington, Gingin, Wongan Hills, Jurien Bay, Lake Grace, Mullewa and Roebourne.

District High Schools across the State should be looked at on a case-by-case basis, and the potential regional development aspects of these towns needs to be taken into consideration. Boddington is an example of a case where the students should remain, given the continued development of the town and rapidly expanding workforce.

Brendon and the Parliamentary National Party, will continue to work very closely with the Minister for Education, Hon Dr Liz Constable MLA to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for regional students across the State.



Once again thank you for the time you have taken to email your concerns regarding this matter and your comments have been noted by Brendon.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Boydell

Executive Officer
Parliamentary National Party

2 Harvest Tce



Parliament House, West Perth, WA, 6005



P: 08 9222 7296 I F: 08 9222 7812

Jewell, Renae

From: Cathy Wright
Sent: Wednesday, 9 June 2010 7:52 AM
To: Jewell, Renae
Subject: Inquiry into the removal of Senior School Allocation Funding for Year 11 and 12 Courses at District High Schools
Attachments: Kojonup News articles scanned Friday 4th June.doc; Kojonup News June 2010.doc

Hello

I am aware that the due date is past for information to your inquiry however I am forwarding two articles from the recent Kojonup News to add to the two submissions, one from Kojonup Working which has a cover note from me and the other from Jill Mathwin on behalf of the Shire of Kojonup.

I understand if it cannot be accepted but thought it worth a try.

Kind regards

Cathy Wright

9/06/2010

CAN WE SAVE KOJONUP DHS SENIOR SCHOOL?

The Minister for Education, Hon. Liz Constable has said that Senior Schools attached to District High Schools are to be closed at the end of this year.

The Senior School Allocation which we received to set up our campus at the CWA, was provided to support the introduction of compulsory Senior Schooling. This allocation was partially withdrawn at the end of last year and will be totally withdrawn at the end of this year (2010).

This means we will not be able to offer our very successful Senior School programme which has been running at the CWA building since 2007.

We have had strong community support for the retention of our Senior School in its current form. I know of twenty four letters of support from the Shire, community groups, concerned individuals, employers, parents and students which have been sent to Hon Liz Constable, expressing their concern. We have experienced terrific success from our students who attend our school, because they begin to see that they have a place in our community and that they are valued as potential employees in and contributors to our district. This comes about when they realise that the community supports and values them. Part of their success is also due to the fact that they are able to make a fresh start in a location which is away from the DHS campus, with new uniforms, new rules and different expectations.

Another problem which has recently arisen is to do with the changes to the billing structure imposed by the Education Department on the School for Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE). The students at Kojonup DHS Senior School complete their studies with SIDE. SIDE is also utilised by many Senior High Schools when they cannot offer a particular subject due to lack of student numbers or teachers qualified to teach the subject. It allows any school to offer a wider range of subjects. This is now seen as 'double dipping' and a charge for the teaching component (believed to be around \$1500/subject/student/semester) will be made in the future to schools utilising SIDE. This decision will make it impossible, without a greatly increasing the initial funding allocation to continue running our Senior School at the CWA campus.

We have had discussions with and support from Hon. Terry Waldron MP and Hon. Mia Davies MLA from the National Party and a motion was put by our local branch and has been passed at the State National Party Conference stating *"That the Department of Education (WA) be urged to reconsider its proposal to close Kojonup Senior School at the end of 2010, and that the Kojonup Senior School continue to operate and is recognised for the invaluable service it provides to that rural community"*

The same motion was passed at the O'Conner Division of the State Liberal Party (WA). Two submissions to the Inquiry into the Removal of Year 11 & 12 Courses at District High Schools are being made, one from Kojonup Working and the other from the Shire of Kojonup.

We are still hopeful that continuing discussions between our MPs and the Minister for Education might help her to see the importance of keeping our Senior School Campus open. Senator Judith Adams is also informed of our situation and is doing all she can to assist us to retain our Senior School.

In the meantime our year 10 and 11 students are being asked to consider a number of options for next year in case we have no Senior School. These options range from bussing to Katanning to boarding at Narrogin, Denmark or Albany. The course at

Katanning SHS which is similar to the one we offer, is full this year, without the capacity to be increased. If none of these options are suitable, the Minister for Education indicated in an interview with John Cecil on ABC Radio on Thursday 27th May at 10.15am that our students can enroll at Kojonup District High School and study through SIDE. When one considers the new charges associated with SIDE, it becomes an expensive option for parents, because our school will be unable to bear these costs. Also they would be integrated into our DHS campus, not at the CWA which has proved to be so successful. In fact in the interview mentioned above, the Minister for Education was unaware of the fact that our Senior School is based at the CWA, despite the fact that she has received 24 letters of support and background information on our situation, urging her to reconsider her decision.

If these issues concern you too, one suggestion is to register your complaint at <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Pages/Complaints.aspx> (the Department of the Premier and Cabinet) or you can send a letter of support for our Senior School to be retained in its current form at the CWA and to be funded as it was from 2007 to 2009 to the Minister for Education & Tourism, Hon. Liz Constable MLA, Level 19, Governor Stirling Tower, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000. If possible, could you please copy any correspondence to me as it will provide me with valuable background information.
Cathy Wright 0417 178 614, RMB 614 Kojonup or pineavenue1@bigpond.com

CAN WE SAVE OUR KDHS SENIOR SCHOOL?

The Minister for Education, Hon. Liz Constable has said that Senior Schools attached to District High Schools are to be closed at the end of this year. The Senior School Allocation which we received to set up our campus at the CWA, was provided to support the introduction of compulsory Senior Schooling. This allocation was partially withdrawn at the end of last year and will be totally withdrawn at the end of this year (2010).

This means we will not be able to offer our very successful Senior School programme which has been running at the CWA building since 2007.

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Another problem which has recently arisen is to do with the changes to the billing structure imposed by the Education Department on the School for Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE). The students at Kojonup DHS Senior School complete their studies with SIDE. SIDE is also utilised by many Senior High Schools when they cannot offer a particular subject due to lack of student numbers or teachers qualified to teach the subject. It allows any school to offer a wider range of subjects. This is now seen as 'double dipping' and a charge for the teaching component (believed to be around \$1500/subject/student/semester) will be made in the future to schools utilising SIDE. This decision will make it impossible, without greatly increasing the initial funding allocation to continue running our Senior School at the CWA campus.

We have had discussions with and support from Hon. Terry Waldron MP and Hon. Mia Davies MLA from the National Party and a motion was put by our local branch and has been passed at the State National Party Conference stating "That the Department of Education (WA) be urged to reconsider its proposal to close Kojonup Senior School at the end of 2010, and that the Kojonup Senior School continue to operate and is recognised for the invaluable service it provides to that rural community".

The same motion was passed at the O'Connor Division of the State Liberal Party (WA). Two submissions to the Inquiry into the Removal of Year 11 and 12 Courses at District High Schools are being made, one from Kojonup Working and the other from the Shire of Kojonup.

We are still hopeful that continuing discussions between our MPs and the Minister for Education might help her to see the importance of keeping our Senior School Campus open. Senator Judith Adams is also informed of our situation and is doing all she can to assist us to retain our Senior School.

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Cathy Wright 0417 175 614, RMB 614 Kojonup or pineavenue1@bigpond.com

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SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

SIDE VISIT

During week three of this term, teachers from SIDE (School of Isolated and Distance Education) visited our Kojonup campus to liaise with the students. Shane Murray who co-ordinates Workplace Learning, Ralph Gerrard, CGEA (Certificate of General Education for Adults) co-ordinator and Bob Oates the SIDE Maths teacher were all in attendance. This proved to be invaluable for the students and was great for everyone to utilise the personal contact with the teachers.

HIP HOP

Each Wednesday afternoon this term, the Senior School students have had the opportunity to join in a Hip Hop activity. This involves a group called Youth Connections from Albany who facilitate dance and song writing with the students. So far it has been extremely enjoyable. This week we all are looking forward to seeing the filming of the student's work.

STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING (SWL)

In addition to their regular studies, the students have also continued to be involved with Structured Workplace Learning. This is where the students experience a day per week at a business or organization within the community.

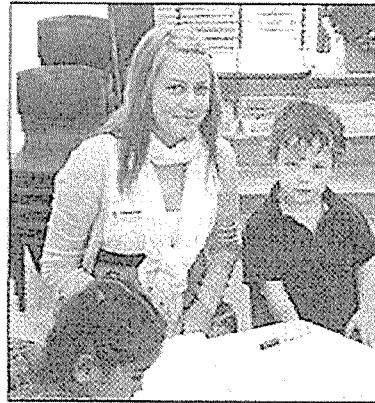
Some of the Workplace arrangements include; Lucky Balloch who has been learning on the job at Morts Smash Repairs. Dylan Ginnelly who has had the benefit of working at Kojonup



Above Josh Vanderbrook at Hi-way Sales and Service

Auto Electronics. Ryan Fulmer is learning all aspects of agriculture on Tim and Anna Eyles farm. Sharelle Edmonds has been experiencing the workings of the Kindergarten at St Bernards. Nikita Lever attends the Early Childhood Centre at KDHS. Karly Trowbridge has been helping out at the Kojonup Occasional Childcare Centre. Josh Vandebroek has been engaged at Hi-way Sales, Karlin Bull is working in the year 4-5 class at KDHS. Aisha Osbourne has had some valuable time at Shear Class.

Again our thanks to the people involved with these programmes. It is invaluable experience for the students and would not happen without the continued support of the wider community.



Photos: Top Sharelle Edmonds helping at St Bernards' Pre-Primary

Below Lucky Balloch with Alan Mott from Morts Smash repairs



THE TRAVELLING SUITCASE EXHIBITION!!!!

From the 16th June through to the 22nd June, the Senior School has organised for the exhibition of the Travelling Suitcase to be on display for the public to view at Kodja Place. The exhibition is titled "Jasmin" and contains a variety of textiles which are available to be seen. Admission is by a gold coin donation. This is a wonderful opportunity for all members of the community. We hope that you will take the chance to view this fantastic display.

Lastly, all the very best to the students for their exams which started on the 31st May. Hopefully all of their preparation will stand them in good stead for pleasing results.

GET YOUR BINGO HAT ON

The team at Radio West are hosting a Bingo Night to raise funds for the children at PMH. We want to get sick kids on their feet and playing again.

Come to the Katanning Country Club on Thursday 24th June for a few rounds of bingo, fun games, raffles and memorabilia auction to help us put the smiles back on the faces of country WA children. Tickets are available from Radio West or Konalds News and Glasshouse. There will be a full bar and nibbles available.

All proceeds go to the 'GIVE ME 5 For KIDS' Regional Assistance Fund

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