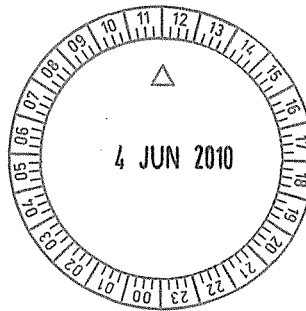


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AD/PAMI

31 May 2010

Hon. Giz Watson MLC
Chair
Estimates & Financial Operations Committee
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Watson,

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

On behalf of the Moora Shire I would like to express extreme concern over the intent to remove the availability of Year 11 and 12 from District High Schools, particularly surrounding schools in Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills, Jurien Bay and Gingin.

All young people have the right to an education and more importantly an education that does not impose hardships on families financially nor break up the family unit.

I spoke to a young man from Wongan Hills who is a year 11 student and he was extremely concerned at the thought of having to move from his home town and family to be able to continue his education. He expressed real concern at the options that may be open to him, which is moving to live in a hostel environment such as what is available in Moora to attend a Senior High School or not to complete his schooling as he did not want to move from Wongan Hills.

Our regional students experience enough obstacles in gaining a quality education that will provide them with the life skills and education to be able to have successful careers and meet their goals.

I believe there are a number of District High Schools that have appropriate numbers of students, although in some cases declining. Unnecessary closures will impact not just in the town in which the District High School is situated, but will negatively impact on the surrounding region as more and more parents I feel will send their children to Perth to be educated, thus reducing further our young future leaders in regional communities. We need young people to remain in our regional communities if they are to be sustainable into the future.

The reduced funding to support SIDE was also a large concern for regional schools including Central Midlands Senior High School and it is pleasing to see this funding has been reinstated.

Yours Sincerely

Lynnette O'Reilly
Chief Executive Officer
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