



Association of Parents and Friends of A.C.T Schools Inc

The Association of P&F's of ACT Schools Representing the Interests of ACT Non-Government School Parents

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Media Release

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Sensible Use of Former School Sites

The Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools (APFACTS), the peak body representing the parents of children attending non-government schools in the ACT urges the ACT Government to take a sensible approach to any decisions on the use of former government school sites.

In response to recent media coverage about a proposal from an existing Christian School to utilise a no-longer-required site in Belconnen for its proposed new campus, the Executive Officer of the association, Ms Kate Lyttle, noted Minister Barr's earlier support for sensible use of ex ACT government school premises.

"If a government school premises is no longer needed by the government system, there is no good reason in public policy why a non-government school should not be able to bid to the ACT Government for the purchase or lease of those premises to use them as the site of the school or one of its campuses."

"Currently there are several non-government schools operating out of sub-standard premises and it makes clear economic sense for them to have access to purpose built facilities if the government has decided that these facilities are surplus to their needs."

"The schools in question have specific ideologies that are highly valued by the members of their community. There is little chance that their establishment would have an adverse effect on the enrolments of nearby schools. Such claims are nothing more than an attempt to place additional restrictions on the range of choice of schools for parents."

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