



Andrew Barr MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR URBAN RENEWAL

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND EVENTS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Mr Bob Buckley
chair@sofasd.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your emails of 19, 24 and 25 September 2015 regarding Minister Burch's response to the structure in an ACT public school and the SOFASD committee's motion of no confidence.


In recognition of the seriousness of this issue and acknowledging the need to seek expert advice, the ACT Government convened an Expert Panel to provide a Review into Complex and Challenging Behaviours. Throughout June and July 2015, the Expert Panel invited the Canberra community to provide submissions on this issue. The Panel received a large number of submissions from a broad range of stakeholders during the consultation. I am confident your group will have taken this opportunity to provide your advice and insights and submissions made by SOFASD to the expert panel will be considered as part of the Review.

In addition to this extensive consultation, the Expert Panel has been supported by a number of critical friends with expertise in Autism such as Professor Jacqueline Roberts. Professor Roberts is perhaps best known for her significant contributions and leadership in providing reviews of research into interventions for children with autism and good practice guidelines for state and federal government departments. Professor Roberts is currently chair of Autism in the Autism Centre of Excellence (ACE) at Griffith University. Previously as Associate Professor at the University of Canberra, Professor Roberts was responsible for content in the Australian Autism Education and Training Consortium (AAETC) Positive Partnerships program.

The Expert Panel has acted independently from Government and is drawing on relevant expertise to support their report and recommendations. Members of the Expert Panel who had previously been involved in giving advice to the ACT Government have done so in an independent capacity and there is no conflict of interest in being engaged a second time to provide input into this complex issue. The ACT Government appreciates that there are many important views to consider with regards to complex and challenging behaviours in schools.

I thank you for your ongoing interest in this issue.

Yours sincerely


Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

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