
From: Ro McFarlane [mailto:romcfarlane@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2009 7:04 AM
To: Committees
Subject: Inquiry into school closures and reform of the ACT education system

RE: closure of Hall Primary School

To the committee,

I am the parent of 3 children aged 6,5 and 2 years old. We moved back to the Hall area 6 years ago to help with the family farm purposely choosing a little farm close to Hall school which my generation of siblings had attended (and of course many more going back and predating the ACT). Like many local families I have been distressed by the loss of Hall school. Since its closure I have driven for a large part of my day to and from kindergartens and schools, had my working time (I work from home) decimated, effectively brought up one baby in a car and had my community involvement displaced from our local area to an area within urban ACT. My school aged children effectively are involved in school and school transport from 8-4 each day, 2 hrs more than their urban school mates and they are tired and disadvantaged by this. The costs to me of income not generated and money spent on fuel is considerable. Also distressing is that instead of being able to weave care of my mother into the social fabric of what I do with children, farm and work I have to make dedicated trips with overtired uncooperative children, have no time or energy to assist the community-something that I hold as very important.

I believe that the closure of Hall school has been a serious mistake for educational, historical, community, environmental and financial reasons for this area and the whole of the ACT.

Please reconsider the closure of Hall school

Rosemary McFarlane
Veterinarian
P.O.Box 420, Hall, ACT 2618
mobile 0488248152