

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs

Inquiry into school closures and reform of the ACT education system

12. The impact of school consolidation and closures:

How did you feel about Hall Primary School closing? How has it affected you, your family, your business?

The closure of the school had a significant impact on my family, particularly on my daughter, Tilly. As the only school bus now takes 1.5hrs to get to school and 1.5 hours return, my husband has little option but to now transport my daughter to school at 9am, as she has many other tasks to do in the morning if she were to catch the bus at 7:30am. This has significantly reduced the hours he is able to work during a working week.

There is significant evidence that Hall Primary School being a smaller school was a positive influence on the children. It was my observation and supported by many of the parents that the children who transferred from Hall to Evatt Primary School. Hall children have been found to have a greater level of confidence and participation in school programs. When these children integrated into the larger school, it was and still is noticeable that the Hall children have the highest level of participation in school sports and swimming carnivals, chess competitions, music programs, school talent quests, and other interschool programs. .

It was also found that when the Hall children first attended the larger schools, they were astounded by the behaviour of the children in this larger school system who had little respect for teachers and classmates. This was always given a high level of importance and was practiced everyday.

Children living in the local area of Hall are now isolated and do not have the opportunity to meet new children within their surrounding area. The local school provided this opportunity.

This letter has been submitted in response to an email from the Hall Progress Association.

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