

Rafferty, Janice

From: LAWDER
Sent: Monday, 29 April 2019 5:42 PM
To: Rafferty, Janice
Subject: RE: Admin and Procedure Committee inquiry - School visits protocols [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Can you accept this as my comment for Admin and Procedures Committee inquiry on school visit protocols.

When I was elected in 2013 I was told by a number of longer-serving members that it was pointless to ask to visit an ACT Government school. As such, in 6 years, I have only visited one ACT public primary school, with Steve Doszpot for some sort of health week event; and one ACT public high school at the invitation of the PCYC who were running an anti-gender-based violence event there. It is worth noting that both events were run by other organisations, not the school themselves, and the invitation came from the other organisation not the school.

I have visited quite a number of private and independent schools, at the invitation of the school and/or the P&C, especially in my electorate.

I feel it is very difficult not to be able to visit ACT public schools and engage with constituents on education issues, and to discuss our democratic processes and our work with students. I have seen ACT LA members (Labor and Greens) visit schools, also federal members (government and opposition) and wonder why it is just the ACT Opposition that is not allowed to visit. Parents who speak to me are surprised to hear we are not able to visit as we wish but must be invited and approved, and sometimes parents and teachers take it as a lack of interest in the topic that I am not seen at their school, when government members are.

Not once have I been invited by an ACT Government school to visit, nor have I ever asked, given my understanding that it would be unlikely to be granted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Regards

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