



Elizabeth Kikkert MLA

Shadow Minister for Families, Youth and Community Services

Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Secretary of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Civic Square, London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Secretary,

In reference to the Assembly resolution to examine whether current protocols in place around gaining permission for MLAs to visit or attend school events is found to be an impediment to Members performing their duties as MLAs, the Committee has requested two specific pieces of information. How often I have visited an ACT school since becoming a Member and whether I have any issues with the current protocol for visiting schools.

1. I will typically visit schools 1-2 times a year. The reasons for my visits are almost exclusively for participating in school graduation ceremonies.
2. I have at times found it difficult to be an effective member when schools want to be visited by an MLA but find that they are restricted in doing so. I find it curious that we have given Principals the responsibility of running Government schools, which entails not only education, but organisation and fiscal responsibilities, but we don't trust them to extend invitations to their local MLA's. I believe that we should extend this additional trust to our school Principals as well.

Please find attached to this submission, two letters from Mrs Berry in response to requests from myself to visit schools in the Ginninderra electorate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Kikkert".

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA
Member for Ginninderra
Shadow Minister for Families, Youth and Community Services
Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Shadow Minister for Safer Families
03 May 2019

Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister

Scanned, Filed



Member for Ginninderra

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Minister for Women
Minister for Sport and Recreation



Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA
Member for Ginninderra
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Kikkert

Elizabeth

Thank you for your letter of 13 June 2018 requesting permission to visit schools in Ginninderra for the purpose of your activities as a local member of this electorate.

As Education Minister I am responsible for the effective operation of ACT government schools. In my tenure as minister I have taken a clear stance on any activities that could compromise or be seen to compromise this objective, including activities that could risk undermining the non-sectarian nature of government education.

For this reason I consider it improper for Members of the Legislative Assembly to visit government schools for the purpose of general community or electorate engagement. I have applied this rule irrespective of political party.

I have agreed on occasion for MLAs of all parties, including you, to participate in educational activities in government schools. The shadow Education Minister has, with my agreement, visited government schools as part of their portfolio responsibilities. Members of the government, typically ministers or members representing ministers, will from time to time visit schools as a legitimate part of their responsibility for promoting government policy, programs or financial investment.

Given the above I am unwilling to allow government school visits for the purpose requested in your letter. I am sure you will agree that this is appropriate for government school management.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister

21 JUN 2018

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Phone +61 2 6205 0233

GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Email berry@act.gov.au



@YvetteSBerry



YvetteSBerry

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister



Member for Ginninderra

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Minister for Women
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA
Member for Ginninderra
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Kikkert

Elizabeth

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2018 regarding my response to your request to visit schools in Ginninderra for the purpose of your activities as a local member of this electorate.

As noted in my letter of 13 June 2018, I have been unwilling during my tenure as Education Minister to agree to Members of the Legislative Assembly of any political party visiting government schools for the purpose of general community or electorate engagement. This includes non-Executive government members.

Non-Executive members of the government will from time to time accompany or represent ministers at events that occur in government schools. This is legitimate part of their responsibility for promoting government policy, programs or financial investment.

Additionally, I have agreed on occasion for MLAs of all parties, including you, to participate in educational activities in government schools. The shadow Education Minister has, with my agreement, visited government schools as part of their portfolio responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister

25 JUL 2018

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Phone +61 2 6205 0233

GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Email berry@act.gov.au



@YvetteSBerry



YvetteSBerry