



Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and
Family Violence

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister for Women

Member for Ginninderra

Ms Joy Burch MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Burch

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2019 in relation to the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure's consideration of visits to schools by Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you for confirming that the Committee has received and considered the Government submission into this matter. I note the Committee's request for additional information about:

- a) Details over the last 10 years of the number of MLAs that have been granted access to government schools; and
- b) The number of times over this period that access has been refused.

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide this information as it is not centrally collected anywhere within the ACT Government or Education Directorate. I am advised that to identify this information would require the Education Directorate to undertake an intensive search of government records that would still be unlikely to capture every instance where access was granted or refused.

Based on the best recollection of my office I can advise that during my time as education minister a visit by an MLA to a government school has been refused on very few occasions.

As you know, I have corresponded with you about government school visits related to your proposed Speaker's Civics and Citizenship Awards. There was perhaps one specific occasion where I asked you not to proceed with a visit following correspondence from me reminding you of the protocol for government school visits.

I can further advise that:

- Mr Mick Gentleman MLA was on one occasion asked not to proceed with a visit to a government school.
- Ms Elizabeth Kikkett MLA was declined a visit to two government schools following her request to visit for the purpose of electorate engagement.

ACT Legislative assembly

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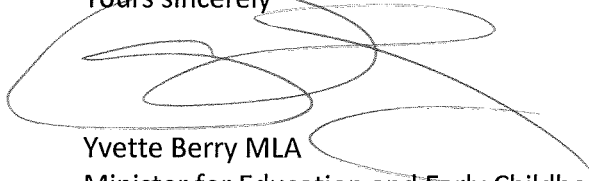


- Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA in her functions as shadow education minister submits batched requests for visits to government schools. Typically each request seeks a visit to 15 identified government schools. The Education Directorate assesses the suitability of a visit to each schools named in the request and may offer alternatives.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the Committee that current protocols are available at <https://www.education.act.gov.au/about-us/visiting-our-schools> and thank you for your interest in this matter.

If the Committee would like to discuss this matter further, the Education Directorate Liaison Officer, Mr Ashley King, can be reached on (02) 6205 0291.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yvette Berry', written over a large, faint, circular watermark or background graphic.

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

28 MAY 2019