MEDIA RELEASE

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION OF BULLYING AND VIOLENCE IN ACT SCHOOLS

The Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs invites submissions to its Inquiry into the management and minimisation of bullying and violence in ACT schools.

The matter, and terms of reference, was referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly on 4 April 2019. The Committee is required to complete its inquiry and table its final report by 24 October 2019.


The Committee welcomes submissions from stakeholders and the general public. The Committee is particularly interested in hearing from parents, carers and teachers. Written submissions should be lodged with the Committee Secretary by close of business on Thursday 16 May 2019.

The Committee prefers all submissions to be lodged in electronic form (Word format), although handwritten submissions are acceptable. All submissions, including those sent electronically, must include a name, an email address, a postal address and a telephone contact number. Personal contact details will not be published.

Submissions should be forwarded to:
- The Committee Secretary, Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs, Legislative Assembly for the ACT, GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA ACT 2601.
- Email: LACommitteeEEYA@parliament.act.gov.au.

For further information on how to lodge a submission and parliamentary privilege is available at: http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/Getting-involved.

The Committee intends to hold public hearings in May 2019 to assist the Inquiry. Please indicate in your written submission if you would like to appear before the Committee. Please be aware that the final witness selection rests with the Committee.

For any further enquiries, please contact the Committee Secretary, Kate Harkins on (02) 6207 0524 or by email at: LACommitteeEEYA@parliament.act.gov.au.

STATEMENT END—Tuesday 9 April 2019
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Inquiry into the management and minimisation of bullying and violence in ACT schools

The Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs shall consider the following matters:

(1) the management and minimisation of bullying and violence in government and non-government schools be referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs for inquiry and report;

(2) in conducting its inquiry the Committee have regard to:
   (a) the societal context of bullying and violence as a whole-community issue;
   (b) the Government’s existing work on responding to students with complex needs and challenging behaviours, and management of occupational violence;
   (c) the report of the School Education Advisory Committee established by the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development to look at safe and supportive schools; and
   (d) the petition about “violence in ACT schools” received by the Assembly on 21 March 2019;
   (e) the potential negative consequences for individual children, their families, staff and schools of being identified in evidence or during hearings and the public attention that could arise from that would likely exacerbate already difficult circumstances;

(3) to the extent that evidence or documents related to this inquiry would allow for individual people or schools party to bullying or violence to be identified the Committee take evidence in camera and hold documents on a confidential basis; and

(4) the Committee report to the Assembly by 24 October 2019.

For further information please contact:
The Committee Chair, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA on 02 6205 1436
The Committee Secretary, Ms Kate Harkins, on (02) 6207 0524 or by email at LACCommitteeEEYA@parliament.act.gov.au.